

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Rocket rocked  
as AL drops NL  
in All-Star Game**

Back page

Astoria's Roger Clemens

**Three teens jailed  
for rock-throwing  
deaths released**

Page 10

**Old London has  
plenty for the young**

Travel magazine

Wax likeness of  
Mary, Queen of  
Scots

Volume 63, No. 89

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THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2004

50¢

# Car bomb in Baghdad kills 10, wounds 40

Provincial governor killed in convoy attack south of Mosul

Page 3



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Helmets, rifles, dog tags, photos and boots of Sgt. Robert E. Colvill, Spc. Collier E. Barcus, Spc. Joseph M. Garbback Jr., Spc. William R. Emanuel IV and Spc. Sonny G. Sampler stand in front of the Ledward Barracks chapel altar at a memorial service Wednesday for the soldiers in Schweinfurt, Germany. The five, all with the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, were killed in Samarra on July 8 in a mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard headquarters. Twenty soldiers from Schweinfurt have been killed in Iraq.

## Last farewell

Schweinfurt  
memorial honors  
five 1st ID GIs  
killed in Iraq

Page 7

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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'Anchorman' pulls  
its weight

July 18: Scene

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## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	36
American Roundup .....	18-19
Classified .....	37-39
Comics .....	34-36
Crossword .....	35
Faces 'n' Places .....	31
Horoscope .....	34
Letters .....	32
Opinion .....	33
Sports .....	40-48
TV listings .....	30
Weather .....	29
Your Money .....	20

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**U.S. deficit:** The government's deficit ballooned to \$326.6 billion in the first nine months of the 2004 budget year, according to a snapshot of U.S. balance sheets released Tuesday in Washington.

That's more than 20 percent larger than the \$269.7 billion shortfall for the corresponding period last year. For the current budget year which began Oct. 1, this spending has totaled \$1.73 trillion, 6.4 percent more than the same period a year ago. Revenues came to \$1.40 trillion, 3.5 percent more than the previous year.

**Consumer spending:** America's shoppers had a tight grip on their pocketbooks and wallets in June, dropping sales at the nation's retailers by 1.1 percent. It was the largest decline in 16 months.

The buying retreat, reported Wednesday by the Commerce Department in Washington, came after shoppers had plunged in May. In that month, they pushed merchants' sales up by a strong 1.4 percent, a showing that was even better than first estimated a month ago.

Bad weather and the lingering effects of high energy prices were blamed for the pull-back, economists said. Another possible factor: a slowdown in the growth of the nation's payrolls in June. The economy added a net 112,000 jobs last month, less than half of the amount that economists had forecast.

**Anthrax investigation:** A bioterrorism expert who was named by government authorities as a "person of interest" in the 2001 anthrax attacks has sued The New York Times, saying the newspaper ruined his reputation by pointing to him as the culprit.

Steven J. Hatfill filed the lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va. He charged that a series of columns by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Nicholas Kristof was irresponsible by failing to seek, or rejecting, statements of denials from Hatfill.

In several columns in 2002, Kristof faulted the FBI for not actively investigating a scientist he identified as "Mr. Z."

Descriptions of the "Mr. Z" were detailed enough that readers could recognize him as Hatfill and subsequent columns later identified him, the complaint states.

Hatfill also has a lawsuit pending against Attorney General John Ashcroft and other government authorities who named him as a "person of interest."

**Overtime rules:** Disputing Bush administration estimates, a liberal think tank said Wednesday that new federal rules will remove overtime protections for at least 6 million U.S. workers.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute was released a day after three former Labor Department officials said in a report requested by the AFL-CIO that "large numbers" of employees entitled to overtime would no longer get it when the new rules take effect Aug. 23.

The Bush administration took issue with the findings.

"These latest studies are a rehash of misinformation that the AFL-CIO put out about the department's final overtime security rule in April, assertions that were completely discredited in congressional hearings," said Labor Department spokesman Ed Frank.

Sen. John Kerry has said that if elected president he would move immediately to restore overtime protections to those who would lose it.

## World

**USS Cole bombing:** Five alleged al-Qaida members accused of plotting the 2000 attack on the American destroyer USS Cole refused Wednesday for a second time to enter pleas, saying at their high-security trial in



**Calif. wildfires:** David DeFraene, a U.S. Forest Service firefighter in the Snow Creek community west of Palm Springs, Calif., watches helicopters loaded with water Tuesday. Wildfires that forced 1,000 people from homes and campgrounds raged out of control Wednesday in three Southern California counties as crews braced for another day of 100-degree temperatures. About 17,000 acres of brush and forest have burned in Riverside, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. No homes were destroyed but dozens have been evacuated.

San'A, Yemen, that they had yet to speak with their lawyers.

The court ordered prosecutors of the bombing that killed 17 U.S. sailors to hand over case files to the defense and give defense lawyers access to their clients.

"Why is the prosecution resisting these requests? Isn't this case about the American destroyer? Then let us at least smell the scent of American justice," defense lawyer Mohammed Najj Allaw said in the courtroom, addressing the judge.

In October 2000, two suicide bombers brought a small boat alongside the destroyer as it refueled in Aden harbor. The bombers detonated explosives stashed aboard their boat, killing themselves and 17 sailors, and blasting a huge hole in the destroyer's hull.

**Flooding in India:** An overflowing river spilled into an Indian city of half a million people Wednesday, and overnight landslides in mountainous Nepal killed more people, bringing the death toll across South Asia from monsoon flooding to at least 326.

Even as large areas remained under water, officials in India worried that too much rain in the country's east could mean a weak monsoon — perhaps a drought — for the country's northern and western breadbasket region, where farmers are still awaiting rains to sow crops.

Still, the flooding in India's east was likely to worsen with more rain forecast over the next few days, relief officials said.

The most deaths — 197 — have occurred in India since the torrential monsoon rains began in mid-June.

**EU constitution:** French President Jacques Chirac said Wednesday that voters, not parliament, will decide whether to ratify the European Union constitution in a ballot late next year.

Chirac's decision puts to rest months of speculation that the French leader might ask the French parliament to ratify the constitution out of fear voters might reject it.

"In the years to come, all the countries will have to ratify it. The French are directly concerned, and therefore will be directly consulted. There will be a referendum,"

Chirac said in a televised interview.

His choice of a referendum was not seen as risky, since opinion polls have showed that the French public is pro-European, unlike in Britain, and generally favor moves to better integrate the continent.

**Germany attack trial:** A suspect on trial on charges he plotted to attack Jewish targets in Germany was caught in a police surveillance tape talking to their group's alleged leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a witness testified Wednesday.

Shadi Abdelhal, who has already been sentenced to four years in prison for involvement in the group, identified the voices on the tape of Jordanian suspect Mohamed Abu Dhess and al-Zarqawi, who has been linked to recent attacks and kidnappings in Iraq.

Dhess is one of four men on trial on charges that they planned attacks in Germany for al-Zarqawi's Al Tawhid organization.

Dhess and two other defendants face a possible 10 years in prison for membership in a terrorist organization, attempted instigation of offenses under arms control laws and document fraud.

**Marcos dictatorship:** The Philippine government on Wednesday took steps to seize \$40 million in funds of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that a U.S. federal judge ordered distributed to thousands of Filipino human rights victims.

Hawaii District Judge Manuel L. Real ordered Tuesday that the funds be transferred from escrow to an account set up by the court in 1995, when a Honolulu jury awarded a class action by 9,539 Filipinos \$2 billion after finding Marcos responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture during his 14-year martial law rule.

The award has grown to \$3.7 billion with interest, but none of the victims has received any money.

Government lawyers filed an 11-page motion Wednesday with the Philippine anti-graft court to declare the \$40 million in Marcos' U.S. deposits seized by the Philippine government's Presidential Commission on Good Government.

"While [the Honolulu court decision] may be a favorable decision for the victims, the government will appeal the case because it is the mandate of the PCGG to pursue all ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses in the Philippines and around the world," commission spokesman Nick Suarez said.

Stories and photos from wire services



Chirac



American and Iraqi soldiers secure the scene of a car bomb explosion Wednesday in Baghdad. A suicide attacker detonated a massive car bomb at a checkpoint near the British Embassy and headquarters of the interim Iraqi government, killing at least 10 people and wounding 40, including a U.S. soldier, authorities said.

## Bomb blast shakes Baghdad

At least 10 killed; U.S. soldier among 40 wounded

By SAMEER N. YACUB  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide attacker detonated a massive car bomb Wednesday at a checkpoint near the British Embassy and headquarters of the interim Iraqi government, killing at least 10 people and wounding 40, including a U.S. soldier, authorities said.

Later Wednesday, insurgents tossed hand grenades and fired machine guns at a government convoy south of the city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing Gov. Youssef Kashtola and two of his guards, an Interior Ministry official said.

The attack occurred about 60 miles south of the northern city, Iraq's third largest, as Kashtola was driving to Baghdad.

Also, authorities reported Wednesday that gunmen killed an auditor for the Industry Ministry in a drive-by shooting as he was leaving his office in Baghdad.

The attack on Sabir Karim occurred Tuesday, said Seif Abdel Rahman, a ministry official. Karim is the second auditor in Iraq's fledgling interim government to be targeted for assassination.

The morning suicide attack outside the main gate of the International Zone was the worst in Baghdad since the United States transferred sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government on June 28.

The explosion shook buildings throughout central Baghdad at about 9:15 a.m., when a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with 1,000 pounds of explosives. Many of the civilians were waiting in line to apply for jobs, presumably with the new Iraqi government or multinational forces.

The Iraqi Health Ministry said 10 were killed.

"We were thrown on the ground. Then I saw many dead people on the ground," witness Alla Hassan said.

Black and gray smoke billowed

from the blast site, leaving a crater two yards wide and a yard deep in the road. The charred remains of five cars stood by a protective blast wall that had been partially destroyed. Two other trucks and a car lay smoldering nearby.

The blast occurred on a national holiday marking the 46th anniversary of the bloody nationalist coup that killed Iraq's last king, Faisal II.

The wounded soldier was returned to duty later in the day, according to Lt. Col. James Hutton, 1st Cavalry Division spokesman.

Iraqi police and civilian ambulances responded at the scene, Hutton said.

None of the injured was treated at the U.S. military hospital in the International Zone, according to Capt. Jeffrey Greenlinger, 2nd Medical Brigade spokesman.

The International Zone was formerly known as the Green Zone, a heavily guarded compound that houses embassies and a significant number of U.S. military personnel.

U.S. soldiers cordoned off the area, Hutton said, but he did not have any information on other ways the soldiers may have assisted.

Hutton could not say whether the attack was linked to the holiday or if any group had taken responsibility.

Since U.S. military officials can't comment on future operations for security reasons, Hutton couldn't say whether soldiers were bracing for more attacks on Wednesday or on Saturday and July 30, which also are national holidays commemorating the Baath party coup of 1968.

"We're already very alert," Hutton said of the soldiers who conduct vehicle and foot patrols and monitor gates to U.S. military camps. "As far as being more alert [in preparation for possible increased violence on the holidays] I wouldn't speculate."

A Reuters driver suffered a shrapnel wound in the leg, agency spokes-

woman Susan Allsopp said from London. The driver's condition was not considered serious.

Militants in Iraq said they had killed a captive Bulgarian truck driver and threatened to put another Bulgarian hostage to death in 24 hours, Al-Jazeera television reported Wednesday.

Another group linked to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said in a video broadcast Wednesday on Al-Jazeera that it had carried out its threat to kill a Bulgarian truck driver it was holding.

The Tawhid and Jihad group said it would kill a second Bulgarian it was holding within 24 hours if the United States did not release all Iraqi detainees.

Three men with their faces covered by black masks stood over a kneeling soldier, identified by reporters as Georgi Lazov, 30. The video contained the killing but it was not broadcast because it was too graphic, said Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout. Al-Jazeera later reported the man's throat was slit.

The militant group earlier claimed responsibility for beheading American businessman Nicholas Berg and South Korean translator Kim Sun-il. It is also blamed for attacks that killed 100 people ahead of the transfer of power to Iraqis last month.

Bulgaria identified the other hostage as Iyavlo Kepov. The two were kidnapped while traveling to Mosul in northern Iraq. They were last heard from June 29.

Bulgaria, which has a 480-member infantry battalion in Iraq, had sent diplomats to Iraq to try to negotiate the men's freedom.

Also, an insurgent group holding an Egyptian driver demanded Wednesday that the Saudi company he works for pull out of Iraq within 72 hours, Al-Jazeera reported. The group did not issue a specific threat.

Stars and Stripes reporter Rick Ewert contributed to this report.

E-mail him at: [emert@mail.starsandstripes.com](mailto:emert@mail.starsandstripes.com)

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 880 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 229 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 742 U.S. servicemen have died — 542 as a result of hostile action and 200 of non-hostile causes.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 5,394 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Shawn M. Davies, 22, Alhiqua, Pa.; died Thursday in Baghdad of a noncombat related illness; assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Air Force Staff Sgt. Dustin W. Peters, 25, El Dorado, Kan.; killed Sunday near a 1st Infantry Division's base, about 155 miles north of Baghdad, assigned to the 314th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

■ Army Spc. Jeremiah W. Schmuck, 21, Richland, Wash.; died Thursday in Baghdad when his vehicle was attacked, assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, 1st Cavalry, Washington National Guard, Moses Lake, Wash.

Two soldiers were killed Saturday in Samarra, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near their vehicle, assigned to the 267th Ordnance Company, Nebraska National Guard, Lincoln, Neb.:

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Linda Ann Tarango-Griess, 33, Sutton, Neb.

■ Army Sgt. Jeremy J. Fischer, 26, Lincoln, Neb.

Four Marines killed Saturday in Anbar province, Iraq, in a noncombat vehicle accident; all assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.:

■ Marine Cpl. Terry Holmes, 22, Hollywood, Fla.

■ Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, Burke, Va.

■ Marine Pfc. Christopher J. Reed, 20, Craigmont, Idaho.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Trevor Spink, 36, Farmington, Mo.

Five soldiers were killed Thursday when the Iraqi National Guard headquarters was attacked in Baghdad; all assigned to 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany:

■ Army Sgt. Robert E. Colvill Jr., 31, Anderson, Ind.

■ Army Spc. William R. Emanuel IV, 19, Stockton, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Joseph M. Garmback Jr., 24, Cleveland, Ohio.

■ Army Spc. Sonny G. Sampler, 23, Oklahoma City, Okla.

■ Army Pfc. Collier E. Barcus, 21, McHenry, Ill.

## AF Iraq death is first since March

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military deaths reported by the Pentagon on Tuesday included the first Air Force member to be killed in action in Iraq since March, only the fifth since the invasion a year earlier.

Staff Sgt. Dustin W. Peters, 25, of El Dorado, Kan., was killed July 11 near a U.S. base dubbed Summerall, near the town of Baiji, which is about 155 miles north of the Iraqi capital. A brief Pentagon announcement gave no other details except that he was killed by "enemy action."

Peters was assigned to the 314th Logistics Readiness Squadron, based at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

The Air Force has had nine deaths in Iraq — four in combat and five from noncombat causes. That is fewer than any of the other services. As of Monday, the Army had 662, the Marines had 185, and Navy had 19 and the Coast Guard had one. Two Pentagon civilians also have been killed.

# Philippines to withdraw troops from Iraq

## Nation moving to meet terrorists' demands, save life of truck driver

By PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines said Wednesday it was withdrawing its small peacekeeping contingent from Iraq early to save the life of a kidnapped truck driver, a dramatic turnaround by one of Washington's biggest backers in the war on terrorism.

The Southeast Asian country earlier vowed it would not yield to pressure to move up its previously scheduled Aug. 20 withdrawal.

Wednesday's announcement was a blow to the U.S.-led international contingent in Iraq already weakened by Spain's pullout following the deadly terror attacks on Madrid's train system.

U.S. and Australian officials as well as Iraq's new interim government had expressed displeasure that Manila was even considering caving in to the kidnappers' demand.

Reporters holding Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz said they would treat him like a prisoner of war if Manila made a good-faith move toward withdrawing armed and would free him if the pullout was completed by July 20.

It was unclear when the withdrawal would be finished.

Vice President Noli de Castro urged national unity at a time of crisis.

"What is important now is the safety of Angelo," he said in a statement. "There is a proper time for debate. Let us give the government enough time and our trust. With your support and unity, we will be able to resolve this problem with dignity as a nation."

Dela Cruz's family, hoping his release was imminent, celebrated with a hearty breakfast of fish and fried chicken in their northern home province of Pangasinan.

"We are happy that they are pulling out the troops already in exchange for my brother's freedom," Feliciano dela Cruz said.

Roy Cimatu, Manila's special envoy for the Middle East, said the hostage was reported "alive and well" by Philippine officials.

"There's no risk of execution of Angelo dela Cruz," Cimatu told SBS-CBN television in Baghdad.

Washington had no immediate reaction. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday a pullout would send "the wrong message" to hostage-takers and that the United States was continuing talks with Philippine authorities.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer warned the Philippine government Wednesday that all coalition countries in Iraq would "pay the price" for Manila's decision, according to his spokesman.



Relatives and neighbors cry as they say prayers Tuesday for the safe release of Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz in Mexico, northern Philippines. Frantically trying to obtain the release of a captive Filipino truck driver with the clock ticking down, the Philippines plans to withdraw its small peacekeeping force from Iraq.

Manila's decision, according to his spokesman.

The Iraqi Islamic Army-Khaled bin Al-Waleed Corps set a withdrawal deadline for the Philippines that expired early Tuesday.

But negotiations continued in Iraq through intermediaries.

The insurgents told President

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that dela Cruz, a poor father of eight, had been moved to the place he would be killed if she didn't change her mind.

The crisis put Arroyo squarely between domestic concerns and her previously strong commitment to the United States, the Philippines' former colonial power.

With Islamic and communist terror threats of its own, the Philippines has been relying on Washington to beef up its poorly armed military to battle al-Qaida-linked groups in the restive Muslim south.

There had been concerns that government concessions in Iraq could encourage local Muslim militants, such as the brutal Abu Sayyaf group.

# War now a political problem for friends of the U.S.

By SONYA ROSS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Iraq war is not only a major election-year problem for the Bush administration, it is proving a monumental political pain for America's friends.

The Philippine government Tuesday said it was withdrawing its 51-soldier contingent from Iraq ahead of its scheduled Aug. 20 departure to save the life of a Filipino hostage. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo faced the decision under pressure of a disputed election victory that the opposition still has not conceded while warning of possible protests.

Arroyo's foreign undersecretary was in Iraq trying to work out a deal to save hostage Angelo dela Cruz's life.

An early departure from the unpopular war as demanded by the kidnappers would place the Philippines on the road out of Iraq alongside Spain, which left after a pre-election terrorist attack in Madrid.

The former U.S. colony also is bunched as terror targets with Bulgaria, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Turkey and the United States, nations whose citizens have been used as bargaining chips by Islamic militants.

Like the others, Arroyo's government has been subjected to high-level U.S. pleading to stick it out, a strategy that Washington employed successfully with the others.

The U.S. administration is none too

## Analysis

happy with the Philippine situation.

"Our policy is not to negotiate or provide benefit to terrorists. We think that can send a wrong signal, and that's why we're disappointed to see statements like this," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday.

The Philippines' dilemma certainly is not unique. Like most governments participating in the U.S.-led coalition, the Arroyo administration wanted to enhance already good relations with the United States and concluded that lending support in Iraq would help.

Filipino officials also were sensitive to the possibility of national outrage should they fail to secure freedom for dela Cruz, a 46-year-old truck driver and father of eight. Arroyo has been under blistering criticism for her handling of the kidnapping crisis, and small groups of protesters have taken to the streets of Manila for two straight days.

The Bush administration should not be surprised by Manila's actions, said Stephen Walt, professor of international affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. As time passes without hard proof to back up the rationale for war, such as the discovery of weapons of mass destruction, coalition

countries are less able to explain why they remain in Iraq, Walt said.

"These governments look naive for having believed us," Walt said. "You don't want to see other governments succumbing to this kind of blackmail. But we ought to recognize that there are reasons why foreign governments are feeling the heat, and the reason is that the original case for war turned out to be a sham."

Hoping to keep the Philippines in the fold, Secretary of State Colin Powell called Arroyo. Similarly, U.S. officials reached out to Seoul with personal assurances when South Korea saw one of its citizens beheaded in Iraq, and to Japanese President Junichiro Koizumi, who held firm in Iraq after three kidnapped Japanese citizens were released.

To soften the impact of the Philippine withdrawal on its international standing, the United States also praised Australia for deciding to send more soldiers to Iraq and El Salvador for extending its troops' stay by a year.

Even so, more problems loomed. Bulgaria grappled with reports that one of two

Bulgarian truck drivers taken hostage had been killed.

"What is the U.S. giving these countries? Basically nothing," said Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, senior fellow for trans-Atlantic relations at Johns Hopkins University. "A lot of countries say the U.S. got us in this mess, it's basically up to the U.S. to deal with the problems."

"What you will hear in public opinion or elsewhere is the U.S. policy toward Iraq before and now was flawed. And unless that policy changes, one is really willing to engage internationally on this issue, it's going to be a difficult situation," she said.

Changes in Washington did not seem to be forthcoming.

"There is a difference between leading a coalition of many nations and submitting to the objections of a few," Vice President Dick Cheney said Monday at a fund-raiser in Pennsylvania.

"The United States will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country."

Sonya Ross has covered national and international affairs for The Associated Press since 1992.

*"You don't want to see other governments succumbing to this kind of blackmail. But we ought to recognize that there are reasons why foreign governments are feeling the heat."*

Stephen Walt

Professor of international affairs, Harvard University



# Army unit's tabby earns his stripes, new home

The Associated Press

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Staff Sgt. Rick Bousfield of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team had a mission: Saving Private Hammer.

Pfc. Hammer is an Iraqi tabby cat the unit adopted after he was born last fall at a base in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad.

When Bousfield found out his Fort Carson, Colo., unit was leaving Iraq in March, he decided he couldn't leave a member of his team behind.

"He has been through mortar attacks," said Bousfield, a 19-year Army veteran. "He'd jump and get scared like the rest of us. He is kind of like one of our own."

Pfc. Hammer got his name from the unit that adopted him, Team Hammer. Soldiers would tuck Hammer in their body armor during artillery attacks, and in return, Hammer chased mice in the mess hall.

"He was a stress therapist," Bousfield said. "The guys would come back in tired and stressed. Hammer would come back and bug the heck out of you. We wiped away some worries."

The kitten earned his rank after nabbing five mice.

When Bousfield learned his unit was going, he sent an e-mail to Alley Cat Allies, a national clearinghouse of information on stray cats, asking for help bring-



THE (COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

Hammer, a 10-month-old cat that spent the first nine months of his life in Iraq, used to ride in a truck on supply runs with U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Rick Bousfield, right. When Bousfield returned home, he brought the cat with him. Hammer has adjusted to life among five others in the house. Sheri Bousfield, is at left, and daughter Tiffany at center.

ing Hammer along.

Alley Cat Allies raised \$2,500 for Hammer's shots, sterilization, paperwork and a plane ride to the United States.

Hammer left Iraq with his unit

in March, then flew from Kuwait to San Francisco in cargo-class. He traveled first class with an Alley Cat Allies volunteer to Denver.

Bousfield met Hammer at the airport.

# Marine who went missing in Iraq is set for U.S. return

## Hassoun is released from hospital, but mechanical problems delay flight

BY MARNI MCENTINE

Stars and Stripes

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** — A U.S. Marine seen on television as being held hostage by militants in Iraq before he turned up in Lebanon has been released from a military hospital in Germany.

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun spent four days at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, undergoing what military physicians called repatriation and debriefing.

He was bound for Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, where he would continue the repatriation process, Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Dan McSweeney said Wednesday.

The main thing is to ensure his mental and physical well-being and allow him to continue to decompress," McSweeney said.

Hassoun was scheduled to leave Ramstein Air Base on Wednesday afternoon in a C-5 Galaxy, but mechanical problems delayed the flight by at least a day, officials said.

When he travels, he'll be accompanied by a Landstuhl psychologist and a Marine Corps public affairs officer, hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said. They were to fly to Dover, Del.

Depending on weather, he'll either take a flight to Quantico or make the roughly 135-mile trip in a van or car, said Corps spokesman Capt. Jeffrey Landis.

Originally, the Corps plan to return Hassoun to his home base of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

But Quantico puts him closer to intelligence officials, investigators and the health officials at the Naval National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., officials said.

Depending on the availability of rooms, officials at Quantico want to house Hassoun in the Bachelor Officer Quarters, where there is more living space, and is closer to the main gate and facilities at Quantico. If there is no room, he'll be housed in the enlisted quarters, Landis said.

Hassoun, 24, arrived at the Landstuhl hospital late Friday night, exhausted but in good health. He had lost 20 pounds and hadn't slept more than a few hours a night for three weeks, hospital physicians said.

The Marine disappeared June 20 from a camp near Fallujah, Iraq, where he worked as a truck driver and translator for the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune.

He was seen on Arab television June 27, blindfolded with someone holding a sword above his

## Hassoun's statement

**Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun issued this written statement before leaving Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on Wednesday:**

"I am happy to have completed this phase of my repatriation. The people here at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center have treated me very well, but I am excited to be going home. All thanks and praise are due to God for my safety. I'm also very thankful for all the kind wishes, good prayer and prayers for me and my family from my fellow Marines, all the people in the U.S., Lebanon, and around the world. I am in good health and spirits. I look forward to my return home to friends and family. Semper Paratus."

head. Conflicting reports of his capture and possible murder had circulated for days before Hassoun arrived July 8 in Lebanon, where his family lives. He met with U.S. Embassy officials in Beirut before the military flew him to Germany.

Initially, the military listed Hassoun as a deserter but then changed that to "captured," after the videotape was aired.

McSweeney said the military's Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, which specializes in treating people who have been held captive, recommended continuing the repatriation process. Until that is complete, no investigation into the "missing persons inquiry" would continue," McSweeney said. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service will pursue that inquiry, he said.

Hassoun has not yet been questioned by the NCIS and will not be confined while at Quantico, McSweeney said.

Shaw, the Landstuhl spokeswoman, said the third repatriation phase is meant to continue to ease Hassoun back into normal life. The Marine issued a written statement before leaving the hospital, saying he was happy to go home and thankful for the support he received.

"I saw him this morning," Shaw said. "He was in uniform. He was smiling more than he was before. He was a lot more relaxed because he had slept and eaten well."

Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz contributed to this report from the Pentagon. E-mail: Marni.McEntine@mcintee.com/mail.estripes.ods.mil

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**Heidelberg Optical Shop**  
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**Mainz-Kastel Optical Shop**  
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DSN: 334-2944

**Manheim Optical Shop**  
0621-7703200  
DSN: 382-4769

**Ramstein Optical Shop**  
06371-452724

**Vogelweh Optical Shop**  
0631-3506396  
DSN: 489-6563

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06134-203930  
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**Manheim Optometry Clinic**  
0621-7703100  
DSN: 382-4770

**Vogelweh Optometry Clinic**  
0631-08780

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Staff Sgt. Darren Barker, center, of Lake Orion, Mich., leads chemical weapons training Thursday for members of the 76th Brigade of the Indiana National Guard at Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Ind. The brigade, with an assist from smaller units in 15 other states, is deploying with about 1,400 soldiers to train the Afghan National Army.

## Guard to train Afghan army

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING  
The Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Ind. — Guard troops from 16 states will have a front-row seat as Afghanistan prepares for its presidential elections. The troops will make up a task force that will train the Afghan National Army. It is not a mission typically done by Guard troops, but was assigned to them because the Army is stretched thin by the war on terror.

The deployment comes less than three months before Afghanistan's first direct presidential election on Oct. 9. President Bush has called the elections "a critical step forward in Afghanistan's transition to democracy."

"We'll see the first time a democracy's ever happened in the country," said Brig. Gen. Richard Moorhead, 50, commanding general of the task force at Camp Atterbury.

The elections could bring a surge in violence by those seeking

to undermine the new government. Last month, as many as 17 Afghan men were reportedly killed for carrying election registration cards. Six election workers — four Afghan women and two British contractors — also were killed in attacks.

The Indiana Guard's 76th Brigade is overseeing the task force, called Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix III. About 1,000 of the 1,400 troops deploying from the task force are from the Indiana Guard.

The brigade will be helped by units from Missouri, Pennsylvania, Oregon, New Hampshire, Florida, Montana, Maryland, Alabama, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Texas and California.

The second brigade unit to oversee the training of Afghan fighters. It replaces a task force led by the 45th Brigade of the Oklahoma National Guard.

Maj. Eric Bloom, a public affairs officer with the Oklahoma National Guard, said the 2,700 troops assigned to the Oklahoma-led task force have helped the Afghan army provide security for voter registration.

"From what we can see, the Afghans want to stand up and go to the polls for themselves, something the majority have never had the opportunity to do," said Bloom in a telephone interview from Afghanistan.

Besides running military training academies, the Oklahoma Guard soldiers are deployed as trainers on combat and stability operations, Bloom said. The replacement troops will take on similar missions as "embedded trainers" in sometimes remote locations with Afghan fighters.

The Oklahoma Guard is expected to remain in Afghanistan for about six weeks to help the Indiana Guard with the transition, Bloom said.

## NATO was duped into helping U.S. vigilantes

BY AMIR SHAH  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three American vigilantes tricked NATO peacekeepers into helping with illegal raids, the security force said Wednesday, getting them to send explosives experts and bomb-sniffing dogs to check buildings in Kabul where they had trained suspects.

A spokesman said the men, led by former U.S. soldier Jonathan K. Idema, seemed authentic — fluent in military speak, decked out in faux U.S. Army fatigues and claiming to belong to a nonexistent task force.

"Their credibility was such that with their uniforms, their approach, our people believed they were what they said they were," said Cdr. Chris Henderson, a

spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force.

Afghan officials said the three men, who were arrested July 5, could spend 20 years in jail on charges of hostage-taking and assault. Idema allegedly found hanging upside down in their private jail.

It remained unclear if the three men had been picking up innocent Afghans if they were trailing genuine militants plotting bombings or other violence.

Henderson said Idema called in bomb-disposal teams from the International Security Assistance Force to check houses and vehicles three times from June 20-24.

"The teams found 'traces' of explosives in two cases, and suspicious electronic components in a third, Henderson said. He

wouldn't say whether they could have been used to make bombs.

Idema, formerly of Fayetteville, N.C., appeared in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. He claimed in a book to have fought alongside the Northern Alliance troops who allied with U.S. forces to drive out the Taliban regime.

Better known as "Jack," he returned to Kabul some weeks ago with his partners.

It remains unclear if Idema, who spent three years in a U.S. federal prison for a fraud conviction in the 1990s, was hoping to bank a million-dollar reward for information leading to the capture of al-Qaida fugitives.

The U.S. military here insists that Idema, who has worked with several Western TV networks, has no connection with either it or the American government.

# NATO countries not much help in Afghanistan

## Widespread disillusionment over performance contributing to doubts

By GEORGE GEDDA  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When NATO took command of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan last summer, there were high hopes for multiple payoffs for the alliance.

An effective NATO performance could smooth over the American-European split caused by the Iraq war and, perhaps more importantly, create the security environment the Afghans urgently need to hold national elections.

Now, almost a year since NATO took on the task, there is widespread disillusionment with its performance, contributing to doubts about Afghanistan's future stability.

While accusing NATO of dithering, officials in President George W. Bush's administration say the allies still have time to help ensure a successful Afghan presidential election in October.

Parliamentary elections, due to have been held simultaneously, have been put off until spring.

John Hulsman, a European analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, says halfhearted allied efforts in Afghanistan are deepening American suspicions about NATO's utility.

"Our interests are not the same. We have to stop pretending that they are," he says.

Officially, the alliance takes a different view. A communique issued at the NATO summit in Turkey two weeks ago said, "Contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan is NATO's key priority."

"NATO's leadership of the U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force demonstrates the readiness of the North Atlantic Council to decide to launch operations to ensure our common security."

Charles Kupchan of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York says NATO's commitment in Afghanistan has yielded little thus far.

While helping to stabilize Kabul, he says, "most of rest of country is the wild, wild west, including the south and east."

Bush administration officials say such comments fail to recognize that the deployment to Afghanistan is a bold departure for an alli-

ance that had never ventured beyond Europe's borders.

At Istanbul, the allies committed themselves to increase troop levels from 6,500 to 10,000. Some of the new forces will be stationed outside the country for use only in an emergency.

The NATO troops serve apart from the 20,000 U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan, which focus on tracking down remnants of al-Qaida and the deposed Taliban government, mostly in the border area with Pakistan.

These militant groups would benefit from any failure of democracy to take root in Afghanistan.

Other anti-democratic forces also would profit, including the violent warlord-led militias that control much of the countryside.

The International Crisis Group, the Brussels, Belgium-based organization that offers analyses on a host of trouble spots, said in a June report on Afghanistan: "Security affects everything from elections to reconstruction to women's rights to

drugs to the disarmament and demobilization of warlords."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai made warlord disarmament a top priority earlier this year but has made almost no headway.

At the Istanbul summit two weeks ago, Karzai implored the Europeans to take Afghanistan more seriously.

"Please hurry," he said. "Provide the Afghan men and women with a chance to vote freely without fear, without coercion."

NATO has agreed to branch out beyond Kabul, the capital, to the west and north of Afghanistan, setting up civilian-military teams designed to help the Karzai government extend its authority and to create a secure environment, among other goals.

NATO has had the authority to expand operations beyond Kabul since last October, but the only such deployment has been the dispatch of a German unit to the northeastern city of Kunduz, considered a relatively safe area.

Since the summit teams have gone to the northern towns of Mazar-i-Sharif and Taloqan. Two more are due to become operational by September.

*"Please hurry.  
Provide the  
Afghan men  
and women  
with a  
chance to  
vote freely  
without fear,  
without  
coercion."*

Afghan President  
Hamid Karzai



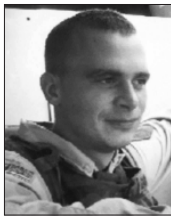
Spc. Collier E. Barcus



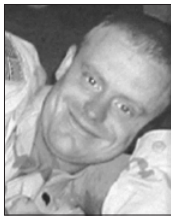
Sgt. Robert E. Colvill



Spc. William R. Emanuel IV



Spc. Joseph M. Garmback Jr.



Spc. Sonny G. Sampler

# Schweinfurt says farewell to 5 fallen GIs

BY LISA HORN  
Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — "The fight in Iraq has come to our doorstep yet again," Lt. Col. Keith Wright, 280th Base Support Battalion chaplain, said at a memorial ceremony to honor five 1st Infantry Division soldiers killed last week.

Sgt. Robert E. Colvill, 31; Spc. Collier E. Barcus, 21; Spc. Joseph M. Garmback Jr., 24; Spc. William "TJ" R. Emanuel IV, 19; and Spc. Sonny G. Sampler, 23, were killed July 8 in Samarra during a mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard headquarters.

The names of the Task Force 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment soldiers were added to the roll of the 15 other Schweinfurt-based soldiers killed downrange since the community's seven units deployed to Iraq in February.

Pvt. Bradley Sensibaugh attended the ceremony to honor Emanuel, his friend and cousin by marriage. Emanuel was a carrier driver within the 1-26 mortar platoon.

"I really met him when he was about 11 years old," said the Darmstadt-based soldier, whose fondest memories were playing football with Emanuel at family gatherings on Easter. "He would get a smile out of absolutely anybody at any time."

Each soldier was described as outgoing and never hesitating to make others' lives better with laughter.

"He was always taking care of his troops, never failing them," Staff Sgt. Eric Breeden said of Colvill, who served as squad leader in the mortar platoon. "I know wherever he is, he has that special smile and is making people laugh."



Mourners wipe away tears Wednesday in Schweinfurt, Germany, as the song "American Soldier" plays during a memorial service for five soldiers, all with the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, who were killed in Samarra on July 8.

MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

Breeden later read a dedication sent by a buddy of Garmback's downrange. Garmback served as a mortar carrier driver within the platoon.

"When he was in my squad, he set the example," Breeden read. "Even more than was necessary, because that's how he was."

Barcus, a sniper assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-26, was described as a true warrior and friend. Due to be promoted shortly before he died, Bar-

cus was posthumously promoted to specialist.

Pfc. Lawrence Person described Sampler, assistant gunner in the mortar platoon, as a happy-go-lucky joker whose smile he would never forget.

Christine Colvill, the spouse of the only married soldier in the group, selected the song "American Soldier," which played before the meditation period of the ceremony. The song portrays a soldier who is working to preserve the American way of

life for his wife, son and daughter.

The words rang true — Colvill also leaves behind a son, Zachary, and daughter, Savannah.

Capt. Alex Ruschell, Task Force 1-26 rear detachment commander, perhaps best expressed the thoughts of those who attended the ceremony: "Remember the men they were and the soldiers they strived to be."

E-mail Lisa Horn at: [hornl@mail.strips.esd.mil](mailto:hornl@mail.strips.esd.mil)

## New commands take over across Germany bases

Stars and Stripes

Several changes of command took place in Germany recently.

In Darmstadt, Col. Frederick A. Cross took over command of the 22nd Signal Brigade from Col. Jeffrey G. Smith Jr. during a change of command ceremony Wednesday at the Kelley Barracks parade field.

Cross, who has been in the Army for 23 years, comes to the 22nd Signal Brigade from Headquarters, U.S. European Command at Patch Barrack in Stuttgart, Germany.

Smith will become the deputy commander of Signal Regiment at Fort Gordon, Ga.

On Monday, Lt. Col. Joseph E. Hicks took command of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Aviation Regi-

ment, from Lt. Col. Samuel S. Evans during a ceremony at Mannheim's Coleman Army Airfield Barracks.

Hicks' previous assignment was with 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, where he served as a maintenance platoon leader, executive officer and company commander for Company F 1st Battalion of the 160th, executive officer for 4th Battalion of the 160th, and regiment fielding officer for MH-6M aircraft.

Evans, the outgoing commander, was the Mannheim battalion commander for the last 24 months. His next assignment is with the 200th Materiel Management Center in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Also on Monday in Mannheim, Lt. Col. Melissa A. Sturgeon took

the reins of the 293rd Base Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Christopher L. Miller at Sullivan Barracks.

Miller, the outgoing commander, is headed for a position with the Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va.

Sturgeon was previously assigned to the V Corps' G-2 staff, where she served as chief of operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 1st Battalion, 27th Field Artillery changed commanders at a ceremony in Babenhausen on June 23.

Lt. Col. Terry M. Lee replaced Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lieb, who remains in U.S. Army Europe.

Lee comes to Babenhausen from Alexandria, where he served in the Army's Human Resource Center.



KEITH WRIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Lt. Col. Melissa A. Sturgeon accepts the 293rd Base Support Battalion colors from Col. Robert Rush, commander of the 26th Area Support Group, during a ceremony Monday in Mannheim, Germany.

# Navy may expand experimental 'Sea Swap'

## Evacuation in Bahrain may prompt crew exchange for sailors too

By Sandra Jontz  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy's experimental "Sea Swap" program could be expanded to sailors serving in Bahrain who recently said goodbye to families evacuated because of the risk of possible terrorist attacks.

Navy leaders are looking at how they might "do Sea Swap ... with the crew in Bahrain," we do not have to have them be away from their families for a long period of time," Vice Adm. Timothy LaFleur, commander Naval Surface Force Pacific Fleet, said Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, more than half of the nearly 1,000 dependents being evacuated as part of a mandatory relocation order had left Bahrain,

with the remaining slated to be out by next week, a defense official said.

The evacuation order is for one month, and then the situation and threat conditions will be re-evaluated before families can return, the official said.

The Sea Swap program of leaving destroyers out at sea and swapping crews on and off the vessels has been hailed as an overall success by the Navy and the Center for Naval Analyses, a Navy-sponsored think tank, which Tuesday released its study of the program.

The CNA review included results of a quality-of-life survey that highlighted a possible snag in the program when it comes to sailors' desires to re-enlist.

"Survey results indicated that the sailors

protested the implicit changes in Navy culture and the extra work," reads a portion of the CNA report. "There were frequent claims that Sea Swap was generally bad for morale. Preliminary retention data show a negative effect on reenlistment rates."

However, Navy leaders from two of the participating ships, the USS Higgins and Fletcher, challenged the CNA reporting, saying their crews were seeing retention rates and plans in the 70-plus percent range.

"We've not seen a drop off in retention," said Cmdr. Roy Kitchener, commanding officer of the USS Higgins. "Ask a sailor on my ship on any given day, and the answer could be different. ... But at this point, we haven't seen [a drop in retention]."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil



Vice Adm. Timothy LaFleur

## Investigators: Navy personnel phoning without cost controls

By Larry Margasak  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — First there were missed Pentagon credit cards. Now come missed phones. Investigators say the Navy routinely paid exorbitant telephone bills, wasted calling plan minutes and couldn't identify who made credit card calls from Norfolk, Va., that in some cases lasted for days.

The Navy's management of phone cards and long-distance plans creates a fertile environment for fraud, waste and abuse," said the Government Accountability Office, which recently changed its name from the General Accounting Office, in an investigative report. The phone problems are the latest revelations to concern members of Congress, who already have heard horror stories about Pentagon employees using government credit cards to make personal purchases at hardware, electronic and lingerie stores, even strip clubs.

The Navy is wasting valuable telephone money while "families are forced to send their sons and daughters deployed around the world calling cards to phone home," said Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who requested the investigation of Navy phone expenses.

That investigation painted a portrait of shoddy management in which Navy supervisors didn't even know they were paying for telephone calling cards, and employees on expensive cell phone calling plans weren't using 98 percent of their allowable minutes.

Congressional investigators could not determine whether calling cards were used for personal long-distance conversations, because Navy officials who approved the charges often were unable to identify the callers.

A Navy spokeswoman, Lt. Amy Gifford, said only, "The Navy will review the final report once it is officially released."

The investigation was limited

to a half-dozen facilities, but the GAO said that was enough to determine the Navy was making use of its telephone spending with a critical eye. For instance:

■ One location paid \$36,000 over three years for long distance services that were not long needed.

■ In addition to wasting unused minutes, other cellular users cost the Navy \$34,000 by exceeding their allotted monthly minutes.

■ Units paid \$25,700 for late fees and other erroneous charges. The bill with calls exceeding 24 hours was found at a computer and telecommunications facility in Norfolk, Va.

"These calls included 4-day, 10-day and 12-day phone calls, which all originated from different phone numbers at different times," the report said. "The length of these calls alone should have prompted further investigation but, because the invoice was never properly reviewed, the billing errors went unnoticed" until found by investigators.

Looking closely at 10 of the calls, inspectors found, "In 7 of the 10 cases ... officials who approved the invoices could neither provide us with an explanation for the length of the calls nor could they provide us with valid points of contact for the activities responsible for the calls."

Investigators learned two calls apparently resulted from circuit malfunctions and the Navy has sought refunds from the vendor, the report found.

Shared calling cards were especially vulnerable to potential fraud, the report said. An official at the destroyer USS Mitscher said he gave the same card and personal identification numbers to several officers as needed, but lost track of how many had the information.

On July 6, 2003, users of the card made 189 calls that originated from 12 cities in five states and Canada. The calls went to 12 countries, totaled 55 hours and cost more than \$5,000.

## U.S., Rwandan military to share intelligence under 1st agreement

By Arthur Ashimwe  
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — Senior U.S. and Rwandan defense officials on Tuesday signed their first agreement to share intelligence and help train and provide logistical support to Rwanda's military for peacekeeping operations.

Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of the U.S. military's European Command for Europe and Africa, signed the agreement with Rwandan Defense Minister Gen. Marcel Gatsinzi during a visit to the small central African nation.

"This is about training together, practicing for peacekeeping missions and cooperating in information sharing," Wald said after meeting Rwandan President Paul Kagame. "It's about normalizing our military relations."

The agreement paves the way for the U.S. military to cooperate with the Rwandan army in nonlethal operations, including sharing military logistics, supplies and services, said Col. Patrick Karegeya, the Rwandan defense spokesman.

"Logistics sharing is an impor-

tant thing to both of us," Wald said. "When we come here, they provide us with logistics and when they come to the U.S., we provide them in a return way."

Rwanda's military, among the most formidable in central Africa, is largely made up of former rebels who ended the 1994 genocide in Rwanda by ousting a government of extremists from the Hutu majority, which orchestrated the slaughter of more than 500,000 people, mostly minority Tutsis.

The Rwandan army then played a key role in ending neighboring Congo's longtime dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko.

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An F-14 Tomcat, piloted by Cmdr. David Landess, catches an arresting wire aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy for Landess' 1,000th carrier landing. Only about 300 pilots have hit 1,000 carrier landings throughout the history of naval aviation.

THOMAS GILLIGAN  
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



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# Landing landmark

## Navy commander pilot passes 1,000th 'trap' on aircraft carrier

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Carrier landings have been described as "controlled crashes." Cmdr. David Landess has done it more than 1,000 times.

Landess, who commands the USS John F. Kennedy-based Fighter Squadron 103, joins only about 300 other pilots in the Navy's history to reach this milestone. Another 100 or so naval flight officers, who operate the aircraft's electronics, have also reached this accomplishment.

"This achievement is certainly a source of pride for me," Landess wrote in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. The Kennedy was recently in the Mediterranean Sea on its way to the Persian Gulf.

According to retired Capt. Bob Rasmussen, director of the National Museum of Naval Aviation, of all the pilots who have "mastered the art of flying" only "a fraction can call themselves 'tailhookers' — aviators who have made an arrested landing aboard a ship — a trap."

And few have been reached this 1,000 landings plateau in recent years.

"The great majority of people who have reached this milestone are retired ...," Rasmussen wrote in an e-mail. "It was not too many years ago that we added several

names every year; now it is a rare occasion. I believe that this is the first addition we will have made since June of 2003 when two pilots joined the club."

Landess said his accomplishment should be shared with the thousands of sailors who have worked on Navy aircraft or ships' catapults and arresting gear throughout the years.

Carrier landings are known as traps or arrested landings in Navy parlance. Pilots use tailhooks on their aircraft to catch — one of four steel cables on the ship's flight deck, which then slows the aircraft to a stop.

At the same time, the pilots throw their aircraft's engines into full power so

that if they don't trap a wire, they can fly around and try again.

The landings are referred to as "controlled crashes" because the aircraft slams onto the carrier's deck and, with the help of the tailhook, is jolted to a stop.

Landess made his first carrier landing in November 1986. He has flown his F-14 Tomcat in combat, with missions supporting operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Enduring Freedom. He also made one of the squadron's first flights over Iraq in the Kennedy's current Persian Gulf deployment.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: [chudyj@mail.esrjcsd.mil](mailto:chudyj@mail.esrjcsd.mil)

## Long-lost tag returned

WILLIAM PENN, Pa. — Edward A. Bickowski lost one of his U.S. Marine dog tags somewhere in Vietnam 35 years ago.

Bickowski, 57, had forgotten about it until recently, when the tag, reading "BICKOWSKI, E.A., 2309616, USMC, S. CATHOLIC, O," arrived in a FedEx package from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

"The S is for small gas mask and O is for my blood type," Bickowski said.

A letter said his was among 1,444 dog tags purchased from shops and vendors by an American traveling in Vietnam and given to the accounting command.

Bickowski served two tours of duty in Vietnam, from May 1967 to January 1969, first in the motor transport section of his battalion's supply operation in Phu Bai, then in the battalion's receiving section in Quang Tri.

Bickowski couldn't remember how he lost the tag.

## Army IDs crash victim

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Army has released the name of a 3rd Corps Support Command soldier killed in a July 9 traffic accident.

Sgt. Frederick W. Johnston III, 37, of Tampa, Fla., was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, which occurred about 5:30 a.m. at the intersection of highways B-26 and B-469 near Aschaffenburg.

Two other soldiers and two family members were injured in the accident.

Johnston was assigned to the 77th Maintenance Company, 485th Corps Support Battalion, 16th Corps Support Group.

A memorial ceremony was held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Bienenhausen Theater in Bienenhausen.

The accident is under investigation.

From staff and wire reports



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Dr. (Capt.) Jacques Parker, an Army veterinarian, looks through a microscope Wednesday at ear mites taken from a cat at Naples Grigicrano housing area veterinarian clinic. Looking on is Sgt. Matthew Jepsen, a veterinary technician at the new Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, Veterinary Clinic.

## New critter clinic opens

Grigicrano veterinarians move to 'wonderful' facility

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

The patients may not like the new Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, Veterinary Clinic any more than they did the old one, but pet owners and staff have a different view of the facility, which opened Friday on the Grigicrano support site housing area.

"It's wonderful," said Army veterinarian Dr. (Capt.) Jacques Parker. "It's bigger and more suited to us because it was designed as a vet clinic."

The new clinic is located next to the fire department, a few hundred yards from base's main gate. Grigicrano has nearly 900 housing units and will have just over 1,000 in the next few years.

Though the housing policy

doesn't allow dogs, residents can have cats.

The new clinic has two examination rooms, compared to the one at Agnino, which closed. A new X-ray machine soon will be operational, which will allow an increase in the clinic's services.

About 90 percent of the clinic's equipment is new and the facility is more than three times larger than the old clinic, explained Sgt. Matthew Jepsen, a veterinary technician.

The new four-person clinic operates under the Army's Southern Europe Veterinary Command Detachment in Vicenza, Italy.

For more information on the clinic's services, or to schedule appointments, call DSN 629-7913 or commercial 081-811-7913. Hours

are Monday through Friday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.strips.osd.mil

## Teens imprisoned in rock-throwing deaths released

Americans convicted of killing Germans serve half of sentences, return to U.S.

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — The three teens convicted of first-degree murder for throwing rocks from a pedestrian bridge in Darmstadt that killed two German motorists in February 2000 have been released from detention early on good behavior.

Jesse McGriff, Deo Bissessar and James Wise each served half of their 8½-, eight- and seven-year sentences, respectively, according to a report Wednesday in the Echo, a Darmstadt newspaper. The sentences were handed down to each by the district court Dec. 22, 2000.

The three are back in the United States with their families, according to the newspaper.

Wise was released in September 2003, while McGriff and Bissessar were released together

May 10, the paper reported. Bissessar remained past the halfway point of his sentence to finish work on a painting course, the newspaper said.

The three had been held in facilities in Wiesbaden and Rocken, near Butzbach, since 2000. McGriff and Bissessar were 18 and Wise 15 at the time of their sentencing, and they were sons of soldiers stationed in Darmstadt at the time of the incident.

Stones as big as 18 pounds killed two women drivers — 41-year-old Karin Rothermel and 20-year-old Sandra Ottman — as well as made huge holes through car windshields traveling on the B3 between Darmstadt and nearby Eberstadt.

According to newspaper reports, German officials said the three are of no threat to Germans anymore since they are back in the States.

## Sailor, wife's car slips off cliff on honeymoon

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

A USS Emory S. Land sailor and his new wife were killed Sunday after their sport utility vehicle fell off a cliff in central Washington state.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Zechariah West and his wife, Adrienne, were married June 25 in Wisconsin and had been honeymooning in Washington.

The 21-year-old petty officer was a Lake Bay, Wash., native. His wife was from Kenosha, Wis.

West was a welder in the repair department of the Emory S. Land, which is based in La Maddalena, Sardinia. He had been in the Navy for nearly three years

and was stationed aboard the ship for more than two years.

According to an Associated Press article, the two were trying to turn their vehicle around on a forest service road about 2 a.m. Sunday when the vehicle's right wheel went off the road and they fell about 300 feet into the Cle Elum River.

Friends who witnessed the accident drove to a ranger station and called for help.

The couple was planning to move to Land's home port of La Maddalena after the honeymoon.

Funerals are scheduled in both Washington and Wisconsin. They will be buried together in western Wisconsin.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.strips.osd.mil

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## IN THE STATES

# Amendment banning gay marriage fails

## Senate supporters vow to continue fight

BY DAVID ESPO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate dealt an election-year defeat Wednesday to a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, rejecting plans from President Bush and fellow conservatives that the measure was needed to safeguard an institution that has flourished for thousands of years.

The vote was 48-50, 12 short of the 60 needed to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined dozens of Democrats in sealing the amendment's fate.

"I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance," said Sen. Rick Santorum, a leader in the fight to approve the measure.

"Isn't that the ultimate homeland security, standing up and defending marriage?"

But Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said there was no "urgent need" to amend the Constitution. "Marriage is a sacred union between men and women. That is what the vast majority of Americans believe. It's what virtually all South Dakotans believe. It's what I believe."

"In South Dakota, we've never had a single same-sex marriage and we won't have any," he said. "It's prohibited by South Dakota law as it is now in 38 other states. There is no confusion. There is no ambiguity."

Supporters conceded in advance they would fail to win the support needed to advance the measure, and vowed to renew their efforts.

"I don't think it's going away after this vote," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Tuesday on the eve of the test vote. "I think the issue will remain alive," he added.

Whatever its future in Congress, there also were signs that supporters of the amendment intended to use it in the campaign already unfolding.

"The institution of marriage is under fire from extremist groups in Washington, politicians, even judges who have made it clear that they are willing to run over any state law defining marriage," Republican senatorial candidate John Thune says in a radio commercial airing in South Dakota. "They have done it in Massachusetts and they can do it here," adds Thune, who is challenging Daschle for his seat.

"Thune's ad suggests that some are using this amendment more to protect the Republican majority than to protect marriage," said Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for Daschle's campaign.

At issue was an amendment providing that marriage within the United States "shall consist only of a man and a woman."

A second sentence said that neither the federal nor any state constitution "shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman." Some critics argue that the effect of that provision would be to ban civil unions, and its inclusion in the amendment complicated efforts by GOP leaders to gain support from wavering Republicans.



Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Penn., left, watches as singer Pat Boone speaks in support of the amendment to ban gay marriage during a news conference Tuesday in Washington.

Bush urged the Republican-controlled Congress last February to approve a constitutional amendment, saying it was needed to stop judges from changing the definition of the "most enduring human institution."

Bush's fall rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, opposes the amendment, as does his vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Both men skipped the vote.

In all, 45 Republicans and three Democrats voted to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined 43 Democrats and one independent in opposition.

The odds have never favored passage in the current Congress, in part because many Democrats oppose it, but also because numerous conservatives are hesitant to overrule state prerogatives on the issue.

At the same time, Republican strategists contend the issue could present a difficult political choice to Democrats, who could be pulled in one direction by polls showing that a majority of voters oppose gay marriage, and pulled in the other by homosexual voters and social liberals who support it. An Associated Press-Ipsos poll taken in March showed about four in 10 support a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, and half oppose it.

Democrats said that Bush and Republicans were using the issue to distract attention from the war in Iraq and the economy.

"The issue is not ripe. It is not needed. It's a waste of our time. We should be dealing with other issues," said Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

But Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court had thrust the matter upon the Senate. The ruling opened the way for same sex marriages in the state, and Frist predicted the impact would eventually be far broader.

"Same-sex marriage will be exported to all 50 states. The question is no longer whether the Constitution will be amended. The only question is who will amend it and how will it be amended," he added.

He said the choice was "activist judges" on the one hand and lawmakers on the other.

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# Voting machine critics rally

BY TOM STUCKEY

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A coalition of activists around the nation held rallies in state capitals to publicize their fears about paperless voting systems.

In Maryland, more than 100 activists demonstrated Tuesday outside the State House demanding that voting machines be equipped with printers before the November election.

Participants in "The Computer Ate My Vote" campaign said paperless voting systems are poorly programmed and prone to hackers, fraud and software bugs.

VerifiedVoting.org, which organized the campaign, said rallies were held in 19 states.

"We want a paper trail now, this November," Linda Schade, of TrueVoteMD.org, said at the Annapolis rally.

Donna Duncan, manager of the election management division for the State Election Board, said the machines used in Maryland have undergone more security testing than any other election system in the country.

In Tallahassee, Fla., about 20 activists rallied outside the state Capitol and delivered about 20,000 petitions to the Division of Elections.

"Computers don't work very well," said Tom Baxter, one of the rally organizers. "If you want to have something you can count, you



AP

Anti-computer voter Jackie Dicosmo, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., holds a sign during a rally Tuesday in front of the government center in Fort Lauderdale. A small group of about 20 activists delivered about 20,000 petitions to the Fla. Division of Elections urging the use of paper ballots.

need paper."

Florida officials insist touchscreens are far more accurate than older voting systems — such as the state's retired and much-maligned punch card system.

In Utah, about 50 people gathered on the steps of the Utah Capitol to ask the Voting Equipment Selection Committee to expand its search for balloting options.

A federal law enacted after the 2000 Florida election fiasco pro-

vides billions of dollars in funding for electronic machines.

Utah is among a handful of states that still use a mostly punch card-based system.

Barbara Simmons, a former president of the Association for Computing Machinery told protesters that officials should hold off on electronic balloting until more accurate machines are available.

"If I had a single message... that message would be 'Wait,'" she said. "There's better technology on the way."

## Man who claimed Kuwaiti royalty sentenced

NEW YORK — A man who claimed to be Kuwaiti royalty and a Harvard-educated neurosurgeon has been sentenced to 11 to 22 years in prison, the maximum allowed by law.

Sultan Ibn Chandler Sabah al Sabah Dantata, born Benjamin Maybanks in Connecticut, was sentenced Tuesday in Manhattan Supreme Court. He used his "mind, his voice, his dull eyes and sincere expression" to persuade two women to lend him about \$110,000, which he never returned, said Justice Edward McLaughlin.

Dantata, who lived in a one-bedroom walk-up in Queens, told the women he needed cash and furniture because Middle East unrest prevented him from retrieving his money from overseas.

He was convicted last month on charges of second- and third-degree grand larceny and scheme to defraud.

## GOP makes Senate pass at former Bears coach

CHICAGO — In a "Hail Mary" pass by the state GOP, the party chairman met with former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka about a possible run for the U.S. Senate.

Illinois Republicans are scrambling to find a replacement candidate with less than four months left until the November election.

Jack Ryan dropped out nearly three weeks ago over embarrassing allegations in his divorce papers that he forced his wife, "Boston Public" actress Jeri Ryan, to go to sex clubs before they split up. The party's top choices have refused to run.

Mike Lawrence, interim director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, said the GOP's fascination with Ditka is understandable.

"In some respects, the Republicans are in the position where it looks as if they're going to have to throw a Hail Mary here," he said, "and Mike Ditka was an All-Pro end."

A number of Republican leaders in both Illinois and Washington said Tuesday that Ditka's name recognition, regular-guy appeal and analytical game-planning skills would make him a viable candidate to challenge state Sen. Barack Obama, a Democratic rising star.

"The public is really tired of the slick politicians, they're tired of sound bites, they're tired of trial lawyers running government. To have a decent, ordinary guy, a regular guy, run I think is something that the public would overwhelmingly embrace," said state Sen. Dave Syverson, a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

Ditka, 64, said he had not decided on a run after meeting Tuesday night with Illinois Republican Party chairman and state treasurer Judy Baar Topinka at his Chicago restaurant.

He said it is an exciting idea but he has not made up his mind. "I've talked to some people but that's about all I've done," Ditka said earlier Tuesday.

From The Associated Press

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# New evacuations as Northeast bails out

BY JEFF LINKOUS  
The Associated Press

LUMBERTON, N.J. — Water receded Wednesday from some communities that were hardest hit by flooding, but more residents were evacuated because of fears of contamination or electrical shorts.

More heavy rain was forecast across the region later in the day.

No so serious injuries were reported Tuesday but floodwater damaged hundreds of houses, stalled cars, breached small dams and closed highways and smaller roads in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

As many as 200 people were told to leave their homes Wednesday morning in this south-central New Jersey town because of contaminated water and a threat of electrocutions from short circuits, an official said.

The rising morning tide backed up creeks that drain into the lower Delaware River, said David Wyche, assistant public information officer for Burlington County.

"They have to view all flood

water as being contaminated," Wyche said.

He said other Burlington County communities hit hard by the torrential rain that started late Monday appeared to be fine.

At the height of the flooding, more than 750 people were forced from their homes in south-central New Jersey, Wyche said he did not yet know how many were still out of their homes Wednesday.

More than 13 inches of rain fell in 12 hours in Burlington County, located in southern New Jersey. It was classified as a "1,000-year" storm, the National Weather Service said.

Severe storms with the potential for more heavy downpours were possible late Wednesday in the same states hit by Tuesday's floods.

The National Weather Service said rain could fall at a rate of more than 2 inches per hour.

New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey called a state of emergency in two counties Tuesday and lawmakers asked President Bush to declare portions of southern New Jersey a federal disaster area.



Fremmen paddle through Lumberton, N.J., looking for people stranded in their homes after floodwaters started to rise Tuesday. Heavy storms that swept across New Jersey on Monday left more than 10 inches of rain in some places, swelling the nearby Rancocas Creek.

## Actor's escaped tiger fatally shot

BY JILL BARTON  
The Associated Press

LOXAHATCHEE, Fla. — The owner of an escaped tiger fatally shot by wildlife officers said Wednesday that he believes someone opened several gates, enabling the big cat to get out.

Steve Sipek, an actor who once played Tarzan, said the gates would have had to be opened before the 6-year-old tiger, named Bobo, could have reached the 12-foot wall surrounding his property.

He did not say who might have done it.

"He was let out by somebody who is interested in causing problems," Sipek told CBS' "The Early Show." Sipek has another tiger, a panther, a cougar and lions on his five-acre compound, which is marked by a sign that reads, "Trespassers will be eaten." They did not escape.

Willie Puz, a spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said Wednesday that Sipek's claim was being investigated. He said Sipek has licenses for the big cats, but said he could not comment on whether they could now be revoked because that is part of the investigation.

Bobo was shot and killed Tuesday when officials said it lunged at a wildlife officer who was trying to capture it.

But Sipek, who developed a soft spot for jungle beasts after playing Tarzan in B-movies decades ago, said he doubted the tiger had to be killed. He said he would have been able to coax the tiger to safety if officers had called him to the scene before shooting it.

"Murder is the word," Sipek said. "They murdered a poor helpless animal that only looked ferocious, as any tiger would, but Bobo had a heart of gold."



Steve Sipek, right, speaks to the media about the killing of his pet tiger, Bobo, on Tuesday in Loxahatchee, Fla., as his fiancée Lynda Turek, left, looks on.

A dozen wildlife trackers and sheriff's deputies had searched more than 24 hours for the animal, which escaped Monday. They had kept watch Tuesday in a five-acre area of dense slash pines and palm trees, hoping to catch it.

Officers approached the tiger intending to shoot it with tranquilizers. But the tiger jumped at one officer, who fired a shotgun in self-defense, said Jorge Pina, a wildlife commission spokesman.

"Needless to say, the owner is very distraught. We're distraught," Pina said. "Our concern was to recover this tiger alive and well."

Sipek says he developed his affection for big cats after one pulled him from a fire on a set more than 30 years ago, saving his life, and he promised them he would always take care of such animals if he recovered.

He told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Wednesday that wildlife officials had told him they wouldn't try to capture Bobo until later Tuesday evening, so he went to take a shower. He said he was coming back to rejoin the search when he heard five shots and "my heart sank," knowing he hadn't protected Bobo.

Wildlife officials had said they did not believe the declared pet would attack. He was never taught to hunt, and had never killed anything or lived in the wild. However, he did bite a woman working in his cage two years ago, severely injuring her.

An expert on tiger behavior disagreed that Bobo had posed no danger. "Tigers are wild animals and they retain hard-wired instincts and to say just because a tiger doesn't have his claws — so what? He still has his teeth and they're powerful," said Ron Tilson, conservation director at the Minnesota Zoo.

## Study: More violence, sex, profanity in movies

BOSTON — Violence, sex, and profanity in movies increased significantly between 1992 and 2003, while ratings became more lenient, according to a new Harvard study.

Research by the Kids Risk Project at the Harvard School of Public Health found a "ratings creep" for movies, and suggested that the Motion Picture Association of America was relaxing standards in rating films.

The study, released Tuesday, suggested that films rated PG and PG-13 had become more violent; that there was more sexual content in PG, PG-13 and R films; and more profanity was used in films rated PG-13 and R.

The researchers said the current rating system does not adequately describe the contents of movies.

"It's time for a significant research effort to explore the development and creation of a universal media rating system," Kimberly Thompson, the associate professor who directs the Kids Risk Project, said in a statement.

The study also found more violence in animated G-rated films than in non-animated films with the same rating and emphasized that animation doesn't guarantee appropriate content.

"Parents must recognize their responsibility in choosing appropriate films with and for their children, and in discussing the messages in films with children to mediate any potential adverse effects and reinforce any potential beneficial effects," the study said.

From The Associated Press

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## Bread booms as customers turn to whole grains

By TIM MCCAHL  
The Associated Press

DUXBURY, Vt. — Randy George has a phrase to describe the bread he bakes: "enjoyable carbohydrate."

"The food is good — I really do believe that," said George, his work clothes covered with a thin dusting of flour. "We do all need a certain amount of carbs."

George's company, Red Hen Baking, makes "artisan breads," hearty, crusty loaves baked without additives or preservatives. And in this era of all things low-carb, George and other artisan bakers say business is prospering as customers shun refined breads for the organic, whole-grain flour and local ingredients used in their handmade varieties.

"They've taken the time to educate customers on what it is they are actually buying when they're buying artisan products," said Gina Piccolino, executive director of the Bread Bakers Guild of America. "Be educated — don't just get caught up in a fad diet."

Piccolino backed up her claim with a recent survey of the guild, which boasts 1,300 members from home bakers to suppliers.

The guild surveyed its 260 artisan bakeries last year, and 78 percent of the 202 who responded said sales remained level or grew from 2002 to 2003. In the same poll, 92 percent said sales of partial or fully whole-grain breads and pastries stayed the same or grew during the same period.

The numbers reveal buyers' preference for whole-some breads crafted by the hand of the baker, not the machine, Piccolino said.

"Multigrain, whole-grain, whole-wheat kind of products are good for you," she said.

Artisan breadmaking has its origins in the ethnic breads of America's immigrant communities, Piccolino said.



Randy George prepares to bake loaves of bread in Duxbury, Vt., last week. George's company, Red Hen Baking, makes "artisan breads," loaves baked without additives or preservatives.

But the kind practiced today is more of a "renaissance," she said, a phenomenon that began roughly at the same time as the back-to-the-land and natural foods movements of the 1970s. And artisan bakers tend to hold many of the same values associated with those movements: a belief in healthy living, a respect for nature, a commitment to using local ingredients.

The evolution of O'Bread, an artisan bakery in Shelburne, reflects the history and values of that renaissance.

O'Bread — the name is inspired in part by a Japanese prefix that connotes appreciation or admiration — has kept its focus local since Chuck and Carla Conway started the bakery in 1977.

"The product is so different than what used to be available," said Conway, referring to the refined breads that once dominated the supermarket aisle. "People try it and like it."

That simple ductum seems to mean good business for O'Bread, whose sales have been unaffected by the growing popularity of low-carb products.

"We do have people asking me about low-carb bread," he said, laughing.

## States receiving poison antidotes

### CDC preps for chemical attacks

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — States are beginning to receive long-awaited federal shipments of antidotes against chemical weapons, under a program that aims to have stocks in every state within two years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began quietly shipping the so-called chem-packs four months ago. New York City and Boston, sites of the upcoming national political conventions, were among the early recipients.

The program provides "a quick way for hospitals to know they'll have the antidotes they need," said Donna Knutson, CDC's deputy director of terrorism preparedness.

It was prompted in part because there has been "an uneven level of protection across the country," added Steve Adams, deputy director of the Strategic National Stockpile Program.

Much of the nation's ongoing efforts to prepare for terrorism have focused on biological attacks. For example, the National

Pharmaceutical Stockpile contains tons of drugs, vaccines and other medical supplies in storage around the country, so that any U.S. city can receive a needed shipment within 12 hours.

That may be enough time to react to an incubating infection like anthrax, but the ability to survive a chemical attack depends on immediate decontamination and rapid administration of appropriate antidotes.

Yet those antidotes are expensive and have fairly short shelf-lives.

The CDC began shipping the chem-packs four months ago.

The packs come with a variety of chemical antidotes, such as atropine to fight nerve agents. Some are in autoinjectors for attack-site use; others are packaged for emergency-room use.

For security reasons, CDC officials wouldn't say which states had received chem-packs so far.

The CDC invested \$56 million last year in creating the chem-packs, and has budgeted about \$34 million this year as the distribution begins, officials said.

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## IN THE WORLD

# Pol: Afghans optimistic, favoring Karzai

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two-thirds of Afghans say they are optimistic about the future but remain worried about insecurity and the ravaged economy, according to a survey released Tuesday.

A majority also approved of interim leader Hamid Karzai, the favorite in landmark presidential elections set for Oct. 9, according to a poll that claims it is the most extensive yet on Afghan public opinion.

When questioned, only 13 percent favored the ousted Taliban regime, saying they favored governance of the United Nations.

Two-thirds approved of the United States involvement which ousted the repressive Islamic militia in late 2001.

The survey, commissioned by the Asia Foundation, a U.S.-based nongovernment group that seeks to foster development in the Asia-Pacific region, drew on interviews with 804 rural and urban Afghans from Feb. 22 to March 13 this year. The margin of error was 3.5 percentage points.

Pollsters didn't reach four of 34 provinces, including the Taliban stronghold of Uruzgan, because of poor security or lack of access. Voters might be less positive there. It was unclear how the survey overcame many Afghans' deep reluctance to criticize authorities.

Karzai seized on leaked parts the survey in the wake of the June 2 killing of five medical relief workers to claim that the economy, not security, was Afghans' top priority.

But the survey, designed by New York-based Charney Research to assist organizers of Afghanistan's first ever universal elections, was more nuanced.

Sixty-four percent of people thought the country was heading in the right direction, with just 11 percent saying it was going the wrong way.

Security was listed as the greatest "national" concern by 37 percent of respondents, ahead of the economy, at 29 percent.

But both the economy and the country's dilapidated or nonexistent infrastructure were seen as the greatest "local" problems.

Eighty-one percent said they planned to vote in national elections, which at the time of the survey included parliamentary polls now delayed until spring.

The pollsters didn't ask people who they planned to vote for — presidential nominations began only on Saturday. But 62 percent gave Karzai a rating of "good" or "excellent."

Still, only 37 percent were confident the vote would be fair, backing the arguments of the Afghan government and the United Nations that the country's unruly militias must be disarmed first.

## U.S. says it will not give additional money for global fund to fight AIDS

BY VIJAY JOSHI

The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — The United States on Wednesday rejected outright a call by the U.N. chief at the International AIDS Conference for a \$1 billion contribution in 2005 to the global fund that has become the centerpiece of United Nations efforts against the disease.

"It's not going to happen," U.S. AIDS coordinator Randall Tobias said in an interview, noting that Washington already is by far the world's largest donor to the cause.

Critics say the U.S. money comes with strings attached that can set back efforts to curb the spread of the HIV — which infected 5 million people last year alone — and that the U.N.-sponsored fund best suits the needs of sufferers.

Tobias urged detractors to stop arguing with Washington over condoms and drug patents and join its war on the pandemic, which has claimed 20 million lives and left another 38 million infected worldwide since 1986, most of them in Africa.

The United States' insistence on abstinence — rather than condoms — as a primary way of keeping out HIV, its trade policies and funding methods have drawn furious criticism at the conference, the biggest gathering ever of AIDS scientists, activists, policy makers and HIV-infected people.

Critics say a vote of abstinence is difficult to maintain and, when broken, can lead to unprotected sex, raising the risk of HIV infection that could effectively be blocked by a condom.

Tobias was jeered by protesters chanting "he's lying," "people dying," when he was about to defend U.S. policies in a speech at the conference Wednesday.

One activist, 48-year-old Mark Milano from New York, said that when it comes to fighting AIDS, "every step of the way the U.S. government is not doing what it should be doing."

"It's not working with other countries. It's going at it alone, like it did with Iraq," he said.

Tobias said that while the United States is not against condoms, an abstinence campaign in Uganda shows that the contraceptives

are not the solution.

"At this point, perhaps the most critical mistake we can make is to allow this pandemic to divide us," he said.

He pointed out that the United States will this year spend \$2.4 billion, nearly twice as much to fight AIDS as the rest of the world's donor governments combined.

With such massive spending, there's no need to contribute additional money to the U.N.-sponsored Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, he said. The \$200 million that President Bush already plans to contribute next year is sufficient, he said.

Tobias' comments were in response to a call Tuesday by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan who said he hoped that the United States would give \$1 billion for 2005 alone to the Global Fund, which is far short of its \$3.6 billion budget.

Stephen Lewis, the U.N. Secretary-General's special envoy on HIV/AIDS to Africa, said he disagreed "profoundly" and that the Tobias statement showed "an inability to recognize the way the world most effectively works."



AIDS activists demonstrate Wednesday against Randall Tobias, the U.S. AIDS coordinator, at the 15th AIDS Conference in Bangkok. Demonstrators jeered and interrupted Tobias' speech, shouting "he's lying" and "not true." He said the U.S. will not offer additional money for the U.N.-launched Global Fund.

The United States is carrying out a \$15 billion, five-year Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, mainly directed toward 14 countries in Africa and the Caribbean, plus

Vietnam. Critics say the United States should instead give much of that money to the Global Fund, which reaches out to 128 countries.

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## U.S. aid to Uzbekistan cut

The Associated Press

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — The U.S. State Department's decision to cut aid to Uzbekistan, its strategic Central Asian ally in the war on terror, may push it to seek closer ties with Russia and China, analysts said Wednesday.

The State Department on Tuesday decided not to certify Uzbekistan for military and economic aid of up to \$18 million this year because of a "lack of progress on democratic reform and restrictions put on U.S. assistance partners on the ground."

The law requires a human rights certification from the secretary of state before appropriated foreign aid money can be dispersed.

Under the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, Uzbekistan provided Washington with an air

base to support the anti-terrorist campaign in neighboring Afghanistan. The base currently hosts more than 1,000 U.S. troops.

The United States said it would use its new, close partnership with Uzbekistan to promote democratic development in the nation, whose government is seen as one of the most repressive in the region.

The closer ties with Washington have drawn increased international attention to widespread human rights abuses in Uzbekistan, which has just started to move toward democracy.

Uzbek political analyst Alister Taksanov predicted the United States' latest move would push Uzbekistan closer to Russia and China.

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# Plan rejects Arafat burial in Jerusalem

BY RAMIT  
PLUSHNICK-MASTI  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — After Yasser Arafat's death, Israel must ensure he is not buried in Jerusalem and take harsh measures to prevent militants from seizing control in the Palestinian territories, according to a new contingency plan obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.



Arafat

The document lays out Israel's best predictions about the consequences that may follow the death of the 75-year-old Palestinian leader.

Arafat, who has suffered from health problems in recent years, yields enormous power and has said little about who might succeed him — or where he should be buried.

The contingency plan forecasts chaos in the Palestinian territories. It says Arafat's Palestinian Authority will collapse and Islamic groups, led by Hamas, could rise up out of the refugee camps where they have strong support and try to take control of the Palestinian government.

Israel must take extreme mea-

sures to prevent this scenario, including a broad military operation in the Gaza Strip, according to the document.

The document, prepared by the Foreign Ministry, is part of regular planning for Arafat's death. Such plans are continually updated by various governmental bodies.

There have been some signs that Arafat's health is deteriorating, including trembling hands and lips, which led to speculation he was suffering from Parkinson's disease. His doctors won't confirm the rumors.

Last summer, Arafat suffered a severe stomach flu, and his inner circle held talks about possible burial plans. After Arafat recovered, a medical clinic in his West Bank headquarters was upgraded.

Arafat keeps to a strict diet of boiled vegetables, completely avoiding oil and fried foods. He also puts honey in his tea instead of sugar.

Palestinian officials said Arafat is firmly in control. "He is very healthy," Emad Shakour, an adviser to Arafat, told Israel's Army Radio.

On Wednesday, Arafat made a brief appearance at his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah, where he has been confined for more than two years.

He was in good spirits, smiling and laughing. Arafat — who has led the Palestinians during the terms of nine Israeli prime ministers over four decades — did not comment on the plan.



Soldiers from Britain's Household Cavalry march in the annual Bastille Day parade on the Champs-Élysées on Wednesday in Paris. They were guests of the French government to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the *Entente Cordiale*, a treaty of friendship between Britain and France, signed in 1904. It is the first time British troops have led the parade.

BRITISH ARMY/AP

## British, French fete Bastille Day

The Associated Press

PARIS — British troops led France's annual Bastille Day parade for the first time Wednesday to celebrate the centenary of the *Entente Cordiale* — the historic pact ending centuries of warring and hostility.

Wearing their foot-high bearskin hats and scarlet tunics, members of the Queen's Grenadier Guards led 4,000 troops from both countries down the Champs-Élysées in the holiday commemorating the 1789 French Revolution.

Crowds of bystanders watched from the sidewalks as 300 military vehicles drove past and military jets trailed blue, white and red smoke, the colors of the French flag, across a cloudless sky.

French President Jacques Chirac observed the festivities from a grandstand at the Place de la Concorde, which anchors one end of the Champs-Élysées, France's most famous boulevard.

He was seated beside members of his government and British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon. Queen Elizabeth II visited Paris in April as part of events marking 100 years of cooperation between the two nations.

Bastille Day commemorates the storming of Paris' Bastille prison by angry crowds in 1789, sparking off the French Revolution that rid France of its monarchy.

At the parade two years ago, an alleged neo-Nazi, Maxime Brunerie, fired a shot at Chirac's open-top car before bystanders pushed his rifle aside and wrestled him to the ground.

Security was tight this year with nearly 5,000 police and plain-clothed officers patrolling the crowd. Subway stations along the parade's path were closed.

After the parade, Chirac prepared for another Bastille Day tradition — the president's annual televised interview. He was expected to address tough issues from rising hate crimes to his stance on France's 35-hour workweek [see related story below].

The interview was touted as Chirac's best chance to breathe new life into his administration after bruising electoral defeats in recent regional and European elections.

Chirac was also expected to be asked about his testy relationship with Finance Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, who has made no secret of his ambition to succeed Chirac in 2007.

## Chirac seeks 'flexibility' in France's 35-hour workweek

BY KATHRYN BRUMBACK  
The Associated Press

PARIS — French President Jacques Chirac on Wednesday said he would not seek to repeal the 35-hour workweek but wants the government and labor unions to reach an agreement on making it more flexible.

"The legal duration of the workweek is and will remain 35 hours," Chirac said in a nationally televised interview on Bastille Day, the French national holiday.

But a "new flexibility" is needed and must be negotiated, the president said. "Workers need more freedom, especially those who want to work more to earn more," he said. "Companies need more freedom."

Chirac said he opposed the law that was enacted under former Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin because it was "authoritarian," adding that it has led

to "inevitable negative consequences for growth and purchasing power."

Marie-George Buffet, the former sports minister under Jospin and national secretary of the French Communist Party, said Chirac's call for more flexibility is "a considerable step backward."

New measures would "oblige employees who want to live a little better to work longer," she told France-Info radio.

Jean-Claude Mailly, secretary-general of the radical union Force Ouvrière, denounced Chirac's proposal as unacceptable. "We cannot accept that in hopes of earning more tomorrow it is necessary to work more," he declared on France-Info. "From the moment that this becomes a so-called individual choice, this means that in reality, the legal duration of 35 hours is called into question."

Finance Minister Nicolas Sarkozy wants to let workers opt out of the 35-hour workweek and has been busy selling the plan as a chance for workers to earn more. He was rewarded earlier this month with an opinion poll showing that 59 percent of voters backed changes.



Chirac

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## Family shooting

**WA** KENNEWICK — Four children who were reported missing after their grandparents were shot to death were found safe last week, but their father remained at large, authorities said.

Neighbors reported seeing James T. Moran leave the mobile home where the shootings took place, police Sgt. Randy Maynard said. Cpl. Tim Scott said the victims were the children's maternal grandparents.

They were identified as Glenn Dale Carr, 57, and his wife, Debra Jo Carr, 50.

An Amber Alert had gone out for the four children, ages 5 to 10.

## Very old pottery find

**VA** ROANOKE — Archaeologists have uncovered pottery pieces, spear tips made of quartz and a large cooking area in an Archaean Indian settlement dating back to the 13th century.

The dig is the latest of several that have taken place over the last few decades along the Roanoke River. A series of floods, which may have forced the group to leave, protected the artifacts and kept them from becoming mixed with the remnants of later civilizations, said Bill Stanyard, a senior archaeologist at the site.

"It's unusual for it to be so well preserved," Stanyard said of the site.

Stanyard's team of a dozen archaeologists plan to continue excavating the 8,000-square-foot site for the next several weeks.

## New law in effect

**DE** DOVER — Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signed the state's lower blood alcohol limit into law during a ceremony at Delaware State Police Headquarters. The law took effect immediately, making it illegal for anyone to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more. The previous limit was .10.

## Fish got the ring

**MN** ST. PAUL — Erik Hobbie was amazed at his own stupidity.

The St. Paul native and ice fisherman had known for months how he would propose to his girlfriend. Over Thanksgiving weekend last year at his family's cabin near Ely in far northern Minnesota, he had his chance.

Hobbie woke up early that morning to drill holes in the ice on Burntside Lake and erect a tip-up — a spring-loaded device that indicates a fish has taken the bait.

On the end of the line he tied his grandmother's heirloom diamond ring.

Poorly, as it turned out. When he went to the hole with his girlfriend, Pamela Gahr, and they pulled up the line, the ring was gone.

"When he got to the end, he just looked at it in kind of horror," said Gahr. She didn't believe him until he produced the empty jewelry box.

"There was nothing we could do but laugh," Gahr said. "Then we just stood there staring at the hole for quite some time trying to figure out what to do."

Hobbie, 44, who works as a



chemical engineer in Washington, D.C., popped the question on the spot anyway. Gahr, 37, a native of Champlin, said, "Yes."

## Kid gets gramps medals

**CO** FORT COLLINS — A ninth-grader's history project helped her grandfather get two Silver Stars and four other World War II medals nearly 60 years after he left the Navy.

Donald Galbraith, 78, received the medals in a surprise ceremony at his daughter's Fort Collins home on July 4.

Galbraith served on the USS Indiana in the South Pacific but left the service in 1946 without applying for the medals. His granddaughter, Mariah Foster, 16, learned of the omission while documenting his life for a school project.

Galbraith's daughter, Carrie Mass, decided to track the medals down. It took 18 months, but she received them three weeks before Independence Day. Mass invited her father to her house for the holiday, telling him it was for a family portrait. Instead, he was greeted by friends, family members and Navy officials for the presentation.

## Developer hailed

**MI** DETROIT — Officials hope that Wayne County's new redevelopment chief can work the same magic in Detroit that he has elsewhere. Pittsburgh's slag heaps into clusters of upscale housing and converted an abandon-



## Pow wow

Travis Lovett, of Douglasville, Ga., dances during the Mock Mexican Indian Pow-Wow at the Mohican Reservation Campgrounds in Loudonville, Ohio.

doned steel mill into 123 acres of lofts, stores and offices. Birru, 57, will head the newly formed non-profit Wayne County Economic Development Corp., beginning Aug. 1.

## Teen sentenced

**FL** CLEARWATER — Kyle Maskell, 18, was sentenced to 10 days in jail and two years probation for using a slingshot to shatter office building windows some believed bore the image of the Virgin Mary. Maskell began serving his sentence immediately. He also was ordered to undergo psychological evaluation and complete any recommended treatment.

## Flag project under way

**NE** ORD — Several residents are in the initial stages of raising \$32,000 to fly a really big flag. Jerry Neeman, president of the Ord Flagpole Project Committee, was born on Flag Day. He hopes his committee can erect a 150-foot flag pole to be topped by a 30-by-60-foot flag by July 4, 2005.

## Wolf killed

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says a federal sharpshooter has killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf that was preying on cattle on an Indian reservation in Arizona.

Trappers had been trying to capture the wolf, a member of the Saddle Pack, since March but the rough terrain and the wolf's erratic movements made it too difficult.

The wolf was tracked to the San Carlos Apache reservation on Sunday and killed with a single gunshot, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Elizabeth Sloan.

The agency decided in June to authorize the lethal action, marking the second time federal agents have killed a wolf in the New Mexico-Arizona region since the Mexican wolf reintroduction program began in 1998.

"Lethal take is our last choice for removing wolves," said Dale Hall, director of the agency's southwest region.

Before the reintroduction program began, Hall said the Fish and Wildlife Service made a promise that it would remove depredating wolves.

## Windmill project snag

**TN** OLIVER SPRINGS — The expansion of the Tennessee Valley Authority's windmill project on Buffalo Mountain has hit a last-minute snag.

Oliver Springs Mayor Ed Kelley worries that hauling the seven-ton, 135-foot-long windmill blades and 95,000-pound bases for each of the 15 windmills through his town will damage the roads.

"You're not going to pull that crap down my streets unless some judge tells me," Kelley told representatives of the three companies involved in the \$30 million Inverny LLC project Tuesday.

"It is not our intention to come bootlegging through here and leave a path of destruction in our wake," Alan Barnhart, president of the company overseeing the project, assured the mayor.



## Business is slow

Ryan Nall, left, pours his mother, Laurie, a cool drink as they wait for customers at Ryan's lemonade stand in front of their home Sunday in Anderson, S.C.



## Dinner time

Two baby ruby-throated hummingbirds wait to be fed in their nest at the home of Mildred and Cecil Ellis in Danville, Ky.



## Wrapping it up

Workers put finishing touches on the sculpture christened 'Cloud Gate' at Chicago's Millennium Park. The sculpture of polished steel plates is part of the \$475 million project between Lake Michigan and bustling Michigan Avenue to be opened to the public July 16.



**Inaugural crossing**  
mill bridge.

Participants cross the Sundial Bridge during an unveiling ceremony in Redding, Calif. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava crafted the \$23.5



**Work in progress**

Construction continues on the interior of the FleetCenter in Boston in preparation for the July 26-29 Democratic National Convention.



**A cut above**

Chainsaw sculptor Keiji Kidokoro, of Aichi, Japan, makes the initial cuts on the log he is transforming into a mountain house during Olden Sanborn Days at the Sanborn Fire Hall in Sanborn, N.Y.



**His masterpiece**

Teek Eaton-Koch, 17, constructs an Aztec Temple during the annual sand sculpture contest in Greenwich Point, Conn.

## Teen nabbed by police

**WI** GREEN BAY — Three times was the charm for police who apprehended a teen bicyclist after the third robbery in a week of the same gas station.

Police said Monday that the 18-year-old man was arrested in connection with the robberies at East Mason Shell. The final heist was Sunday night, and it followed robberies the previous Tuesday and again on Friday. The description of the robber in all three cases was similar.

After the first two robberies, Officer Dave Steffens staked out the station area.

Once the call about the robbery came in, Steffens spotted a suspect pedaling a bicycle and took him into custody without incident.

Christopher R. Harris was charged with three counts of armed robbery, carrying a possible sentence of up to 40 years in prison.

## Airline service ends

**PA** LATROBE — Arnold Palmer Regional Airport near Latrobe saw the departure of the last US Airways Express. The flight ended 19 consecutive years of commuter service linking the airport with Pittsburgh International Airport, about 45 miles away. Airport officials haven't been able to line up another commuter service.

## Woman was not dead

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Fire Department is investigating why a paramedic crew pronounced a 90-year-old woman dead and left her for the medical examiner, only to rush back to her home an hour later when investigators discovered she was alive.

The woman, Divia Masetti, died the next day after being taken to a hospital, authorities said.

Masetti was discovered last week in her house, caked in dried blood and urine and covered with flies and ants. The neighbor who found her, Anna Iribarbo, said she promptly called 911. "I really thought she was dead," she said.

A paramedic pronounced Masetti dead at the scene. Paramedics were summoned back after Masetti moaned when the coroner's investigators moved her, authorities said. She died the next morning.

## Tax-free weekend late

**SC** ANDERSON — Some parents must wait until school starts to get a chance to buy tax-free school supplies during the state's annual sales tax holiday weekend. The holiday falls this year Aug. 6-8. About 300 of the state's 1,100 schools will start before Aug. 6. Items such as clothes and computers are exempt from the state's 5 percent sales tax and any additional local sales tax.

## No more party school

**CO** BOULDER — University of Colorado freshmen are getting a strong anti-alcohol message as the school tries to crack down on binge drinking and shed its image as a party school. This

year's freshmen will take a mandatory Web-based alcohol course.

Presentations for students and drugs and alcohol, date rape, and safety are getting higher billing in the orientation schedule.

## Wal-Mart plans blocked

**OR** HILLSBORO — The Oregon Court of Appeals denied Wal-Mart's plans to build a store in Hillsboro after the world's largest retail chain argued the city changed its rules in order to block the store. Wal-Mart spokesman Eric Berger said Wal-Mart has not decided whether it will appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court. The city's objections centered on traffic and whether the store would blend in a residential area.

## Girl bit by ferrets

**NC** CARY — A 6-month-old girl wound up in the hospital after three ferrets bit her multiple times at her home. Her parents have been charged with misdemeanor child abuse.

John William Taylor, 33, and Donna Carroll Taylor-Colville, 38, were charged after a social worker notified police of the baby's injuries.

Police say they are investigating the case; more charges could be filed.

Police said Taylor and Taylor-Colville had allowed the ferrets access to the baby in their apartment.

## Halibut found ruined

**AK** ANCHORAGE — Airline officials believe they have found the halibut that vanished from Ray Bolanos' checked bags two weeks ago on an Anchorage-to-Seattle flight on an incident that galloped the Bolanos family, mystified the airline for a time, and stirred media interest across the country.

Breese Davis, a general manager for Continental Airlines in Anchorage, said the company's baggage handlers discovered "a ton of rotting fish" under a luggage conveyor belt recently at Ted Stevens Anchorage airport.

Bolanos was flying Continental when about 40 pounds of his halibut vanished. Davis said there's no way to be certain the fish was his, but "we're taking a lucky guess." The fish smelled incredibly bad and was pitched immediately, Davis said.

## Town renamed

**NY** ALBANY — The Franklin County town of Altamont is no more.

The town has been renamed Tupper Lake to eliminate confusion with an Albany County village by the same name.

Town officials hope the name change will bode well for tourism while strengthening ties with the Adirondack village of Tupper Lake.

"I am excited that the town of Altamont is being changed to the town of Tupper Lake," said town supervisor Gregory LaFrance. "It will save a lot of confusion with the village of Altamont and it enhances the cooperation between the village and town governments."

Stories and photos from wire services



## YOUR MONEY

## Poll: Consumers feeling better about economy

## Lower gas costs, help bolster key confidence index

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumers' spirits brightened over the past month as Americans felt better about the economy's prospects, an encouraging sign for the nation's economic well-being.

The AP-Ipsos consumer confidence index climbed to 92 in July, up from 91.3 in June. The latest reading — taken after the Federal Reserve's first interest rate increase in four years and a disappointing employment report — indicated that consumers took both pieces of news in stride, analysts said.

"I think the Fed has done a masterful job at packaging and communicating its interest rate increase in a manner that is non-threatening to consumers and to investors," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank.

Economists believe the improvement in confidence reflects a number of factors: a retreat in gasoline prices, somewhat less anxiety over the situation in Iraq and the fact that the economy con-

tinues to add jobs, albeit at a slower pace.

The latest snapshot of consumer sentiment also shows that Americans' view of the economy is considerably more positive compared with a year ago, when the consumer confidence index stood at 80.5. Last summer, businesses were cutting thousands of jobs — something that frustrated jobseekers and worried the ax soon could fall on them.

"The attitudes are consistent with the view that consumers — while they might not have an excess of confidence — are getting more optimistic about this recovery because more news is coming," said Tim O'Neill, chief economist at BMO Financial Group. "Rather than a boom level of confidence, this is like a boomlet level of confidence — it is moderate and appropriately so."

The AP-Ipsos confidence index is benchmarked to a 100 reading in January 2002, the month the index was started by Ipsos.

Consumer behavior is watched

closely by economists because consumer spending accounts for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity in the United States. Although retail sales were lackluster in June, analysts are hopeful they will rebound in July.

A measure of consumers' attitudes about economic expectations over the next six months, including conditions in the local areas where they live or work, rose in July to 96.3. That was up from a reading of 94.1 in June and represented a big improvement from a year ago, when this "expectations" gauge was at 64.

Economists believe the outlook for the economy is on track to post in 2004 its best growth in two decades.

The economy has been a prominent topic in the presidential campaign, with President Bush highlighting the economic record while rival Sen. John Kerry talks about a squeeze on the middle class.

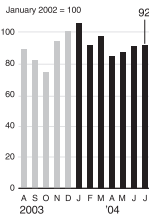
A subindex tracking consumers' feelings about the jobs climate held steady in July at 104.4, unchanged from the previous

**"I think the Fed has done a masterful job at packaging and communicating its interest rate increase in a manner that is non-threatening to consumers and to investors."**

**Carl Tannenbaum**  
Chief economist at LaSalle Bank

AP POLL  
Consumer attitudes

Here is a look at consumer confidence, based on a composite index of attitudes about the economy, personal finances and job security.



SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

month.

Still, Americans feel better about labor market conditions than they did last July, when this measure was at 95.7.

July's overall consumer confidence index reading was based on interviews with 1,000 adults about the economy. Results of those interviews, which took place this week, had a margin of error of 3 percentage points. Those interviews came from two important pieces of economic

news last week.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues, wanting to head off inflation, raised a key short-term interest rate to 1.25 percent, from a 46-year low of 1 percent. They indicated that future rate increases would be gradual.

Two days later, the government released the employment report for June, showing the economy added 112,000 jobs — less than half the number that analysts had forecast. While disheartening, June marked the 10th straight month of payroll gains, a string that has restored about 1.5 million jobs and reduced overall losses on Bush's watch to nearly 11 million.

The employment report for July won't be released until August.

Economists are hopeful companies will step up hiring through the rest of the year.

A subindex looking at consumers' feelings about current economic conditions dipped to 94.8 in July. While that was down from 95.6 in June, it was higher than the 86.1 reading a year earlier.

Another gauge of consumers' attitudes about making a purchase, saving and other investment decisions, also declined to 92.2 in July from 94.7 in June, but was still better than the reading of 87.6 registered last year.

## TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

## INDEXES

INDEXES									
52-week	High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week	High
10,553.8	8,997.11		Dow Jones Industrial	10,247.59	+93.7	+0.9	+137	+22.5	
3,212.45	2,526.38		Dow Jones Transportation	3,079.74	-11.88	-38	+2.42	+16.65	
283.52	229.46		Dow Jones Utilities	277.14	-0.3	-0.1	+3.84	+16.4	
1,788.12	1,438.17		NVSE Composite	1,564.69	+0.2	+0.01	+10	+10.9	
1,278.81	1,038.73		AMEX Index	1,250.05	-0.63	-0.05	+0.1	+3.2	
2,153.83	1,648.88		Nasdaq Composite	1,931.66	-5.26	-0.27	+3.58	+10.18	
1,162.42	969.84		S&P 500	1,115.14	-7.9	+0.7	+2.9	+11.47	
616.42	477.51		S&P MidCap	586.93	+5.5	+0.9	+10	+19.38	
1,162.42	449.57		Russell 2000	562.69	+4.8	+0.8	+10.4	+17.98	
11,717.17	10,544.69		Dow Jones Industrial	10,544.69	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	



# Stripes Travel

## Splash HIT

### London's Duck Tour all it's quacked up to be

BY RICHARD MOYERLEY

Special to Stars and Stripes

It's dawn on June 6, 1944. You're standing in an amphibious landing craft, crammed with 49 other men — all in full pack — and about to land on Omaha Beach in Normandy.

All around are battleships, landing craft and dinghies. Overhead there's a deafening roar of engines from planes providing air cover. On the beach, dead bodies are scattered about as people run in all directions. There's a constant boom from mines and a rapid rat-a-tat-tat of machine guns. It's hell on earth.

Finally your craft stops and the front drops. Shaken and seasick from the rough conditions, you scramble out to find yourself waist high in water. Holding your weapon high above your head, you begin to run for your life.

Sixty years after the amphibious landing crafts — known as DUKWs or Ducks — played a key role on D-Day, they are taking on a new role as a major London tourist attraction. They transport visitors through the streets of central London before making a splashdown in the Thames.

And, you'll be relieved to know, the locals are much less threatening than on the beaches of Normandy, and while the river may be choppy, there are no rough seas.

Started in 2000, the wacky Duck Tour has established itself as a popular visitor attraction. In 2002, it was voted "London Family Attraction of the Year" by the Good Britain Guide.

So on a rainy winter morning, I went along to find out why.

"Hello everybody and welcome aboard," said a friendly voice as we boarded the Beatrice and set off on our amphibious odyssey through central London.

"My name's Bob Pearson and I'll be your guide for today. The driver is called Colin. We're going to take you through a little bit of Lambeth and Westminster and

show you some of the sights.

"The vehicle you're sitting in was one of around 21,000 made for the U.S. Army in 1942. ... Originally there was no roof and no seats, and the vehicles were camouflage green. They looked like ships on wheels."

"The craft take their name from 'D,' a code letter for the first year of production; 'U' for the utility truck body style; 'K' for front-wheel drive (GMC still uses that on trucks today); and W for the tandem axle rear-driving wheels. Seats and a roof have been added, and the craft has been painted yellow.

Our journey was anything to go by, the craft are real head-turners. As we drove along Whitehall, tourists gazed in wonder and amazement — the changing of the guard paling in significance as our Duck swept by. It was like riding on a carnival float.

The tour took in all the major tourist sights of central London. Bob provided a running commentary on places of interest, including amusing stories and anecdotes.

"There, to your left," he said, as we reached the end of Westminster Bridge, "is a great big clock tower called Big Ben. At least that's what most people think. But as some of you may know, Big Ben is not the tower itself. It's actually the name of the bell. And it was named after Benjamin Hall, who worked on the building."

Taking a left, we drove around Parliament Square, past the large statue of Churchill and the side entrance to the Houses of Parliament. Then we headed north along Parliament Street.

"The monument on the right," said Bob, "is the Cenotaph. Every year on the 11th of November there's a large procession here to honor those who died in war — especially the two World Wars."

A little farther along we passed the Horse Guards and the Banqueting House once an enormous palace where Charles I was executed. Soon we were in Trafalgar Square.

"The tall monument you can see in front of you," Bob said, "is Nelson's Col-



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MOYERLEY/Special to Stars and Stripes

Above: A close-up of the Beatrice, one of the Duck Tour's DUKW vehicles, parked in Chicheley Street, where the tour begins. Top: A view of London's Lambeth Bridge, near where the Duck Tour's amphibious vehicles splash into the river.

umn. Nelson was a naval commander. His great tactical stroke of genius was to send his ships headlong into the French and Spanish lines — so the enemy only had a narrow target to fire at. Previously they'd just lined up opposite each other and fired away until one ship was defeated.

"Nelson is also famous for putting a telescope to his blind eye and saying [of

the enemy fleet] 'I see no ships' because he didn't want to retreat."

We drove on along Pall Mall, famous for its exclusive gentlemen's clubs, and passed a blue plaque that marks the former home of Nell Gwynne, the most famous of Charles II's 17 mistresses. Bob also

SEE DUCKS ON PAGE 22

## DUCKS, FROM PAGE 21

pointed out St. James Palace, built for Henry VIII on his marriage to Ann Boleyn.

Seconds later, we passed the Ritz Hotel. "It's one of the best hotels in London," Bob said. "But you can just drop in for afternoon tea; it costs a mere 32 pounds!" He also told us that Charlie Chaplin and David Niven had once worked in the hotel.

Before long we reached Hyde Park Corner. Here is Apsley House, home to the Duke of Wellington and designated Number 1, London. There's a huge statue of Wellington riding Copenhagen, a horse that reputedly carried him in battle for 16 hours. We took a left and drove past what Bob called "the Queen's back garden."

"Incidentally don't do what Michael Fagan did," he said. "He simply walked into Buckingham Palace one evening. Nobody challenged him so he kept on going. He found himself inside the palace and still nobody challenged him. Eventually he stumbled into the queen's bedchamber. He sat down on the queen's bed and calmly poured himself a glass of wine. Then he asked the queen whether she [had] a cigarette. They say the queen took it in her stride, but I think security was a bit upset!" By the way, visitors are allowed into Buckingham Palace these days on tours — but you're supposed to pay!"

We passed Wellington Barracks, where the queen's soldiers



RICHARD MOVERLEY/Special to Stars and Stripes

**Guide Bob Pearson regales passengers with tales about London sites as Beatrice sails on the Thames.**

are housed, before reaching the front of Buckingham Palace. Originally built for the Duke of Buckinghamshire, it was later chosen by Queen Victoria as the main royal residence in London.

We turned right into Buckingham Gate, passed New Scotland Yard — famous to readers of detective novels — and reached the impressive silhouette of Westminster Abbey.

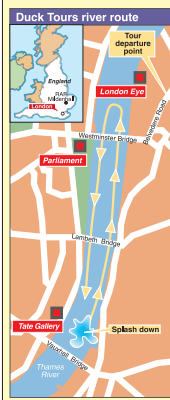
"The abbey was consecrated in 1065," Bob said. "William of Normandy rode in on a horse to be crowned there. And, to date, all British monarchs since then have had their coronations in Westminster Abbey."

As we headed south along the

river, we passed the Houses of Parliament, crossed Lambeth Bridge and continued down to the headquarters of MI5 and MI6, home of the British Secret Service (think James Bond).

This was also the venue for the splashdown, the highlight of the tour. Quickly, the bus driver and boat driver swapped places and we set off slowly down the 45 degree ramp into the Thames.

None of us knew what to expect and weren't sure whether to be excited or scared. There was an instant when we all expected to sink with the sheer weight. But suddenly we were out on the river, floating past the Tate Gallery. We sailed on for about 15



PETER JAGGER/Stars and Stripes

minutes, passing under Westminster Bridge — close to the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament — before turning round and heading back along the opposite bank.

Emerging from the water, we drove back to Chicheley Street to finish the tour.

It had been an unusual trip

## If you go

■ You can buy London Duck Tours tickets online at [www.londonducktours.com](http://www.londonducktours.com) or by phone at (+44) (0) 207-928-3132. Prices are 16.50 pounds for adults (about \$30), 11 pounds for children up to age 12, and 49 pounds for a family ticket (two adults and two children). Tours last 75 minutes. They are not suitable for children under 3 or people with limited mobility.

■ Tours run from Chicheley Street, behind the London Eye, near County Hall. The company office is at County Hall, Riverside Building, Belvedere Road, London SE1 7PB. The nearest train and tube station is Waterloo; buses 12, 53, X53, 76, 77, 159, 341, 381 and all "hop on, hop off" sightseeing buses stop at County Hall.

■ There are plans for major trips in summer 2005 to link with the Imperial War Museum and to celebrate 60 years since

SEE GO, PAGE 27

## PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## BE SAFE, MAKE IT HOME

Summertime fun has hidden risks, which is why the Army in Europe implemented its summer safety campaign. The campaign promotes key areas of vehicle accident prevention, heat injury prevention, and various aspects of recreation. Automobile safety tops the list, according to USAREUR Safety Manager Dave Scott, citing the deaths of six of our personnel in crashes so far this year — three times more than the same period last year. Scott said Army in Europe members need to make it personal, and consciously anticipate and address driving dangers like autobahn construction sites, where traffic goes, as he put it, from "the speed of light speed to a crawl, and always just around a bend in the road." Driving on secondary roads has been particularly hazardous. Scott says that drivers shouldn't underestimate the time it takes to pass in relation to how far you can see so that you don't misjudge the speed of oncoming traffic. "Soldiers, civilians, and family members need to be prepared and drive defensively. Relax, be patient and enjoy the scenery," Scott said. Good safety tools are available as part of the campaign on the USAREUR home page at <http://www.hqsareur.army.mil>. You will find tips on trip planning, automated risk assessments and vehicle inspections. Trip planning is especially relevant during the summer travel season. Mr. Mike Willoughby, IMA Europe Safety Manager, emphasizes the need to plan enough time for the return trip. "Don't wait until the last minute to return and then feel the need to speed or drive through the night." In addition to plenty of time, Willoughby suggests some other important planning considerations: Plan travel routes that avoid traffic jams, construction and potentially dangerous areas. Again, check out the USAREUR home page for more safety sense! Know what kind of documents you need to get to your final destination. Be prepared for mechanical and medical emergencies. Make sure you have medical coverage while on vacation. Know how to contact emergency services for your vacation location and en route to and from the vacation location. After you've done your planning, it's time to consider what to pack. In addition to clothes and the latest bestseller, Willoughby suggests the following packing tips to help make your vacation a safer and more pleasant experience: An emergency kit appropriate for your mode of travel to give you peace of mind and perhaps even insure that you make it to your destination. Willoughby also has some suggestions for things to leave behind. Leave a copy of your itinerary, credit card numbers, travel documents, prescriptions, and a spare house key with someone you trust and whom you can reach in an emergency. Safety awareness doesn't stop once you're at your vacation location, says Willoughby "Be Safe and make it home!"

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# Young fun in

BY DENNIS A. CAVAGNARO

Special to Stars and Stripes

**"When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford."**

— Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84)

Johnson was right then and would be today. No matter the length of your visit, you'll run out of time before you run out of things to do in London.

At the height of the British Empire, London was the most important city in the world. While it might have lost that claim to New York City and Tokyo, there are still plenty of theaters, restaurants and clubs for contemporary entertainment, and museums, mansions and memorials to remind you of the past.

London can be pricey but, with knowledge, you can make it affordable. Start with the money-saving London Transport Travelcards, available at major Underground stops and at various other places around the city. The cards are good on the Underground, buses, even British Rail services in Greater London.

They are available in a number of combinations and lengths. The shortest and cheapest is the One Day Off Peak Travelcard. The seven-day version is the best, but requires a photograph.

Learn where everything is by investing in one of the two- to three-hour sight-seeing bus tours of the West End and the City of London. The colorful double-decker buses are well marked, and allow you to leap off and jump back on at their many stops.

Most start on Coventry Street between Piccadilly Square and Haymarket, a block from Leicester Square. The Original London Sightseeing Tour, The Bus, Eurail's London Day Tour and others compete to show you London's landmarks.

Before jumping on a tour bus, buy the A to Z Mapguide for orientation and for finding places on foot later.

Touring London on foot can be an awesome experience. For ideas, pick up the Original London Walks brochure at a tourist center. Each day, a dozen or more walks cover a variety of interests. Interested in the haunts of Jack the Ripper? There are walks to some of them conducted by local guides, including a few by professional actors.

The walks usually begin at an Underground station and, after two hours of discovering London at ground level, often end in a historical pub. Subjects include Haunted London, The Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour, Spies' and Spycatchers' London, the British Museum Walk and various pub walks. They all go, rain or shine.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, rock fans can explore London's rich, cutting-edge musical history on the Beatle Sites & Rock 'n' Roll London tour. Have your photo taken in the Beatles while crossing the zebra-striped crosswalk opposite the Abbey Road Studios. See the former London church where Bob Marley's reggae revolution started.



CAVAGNARO

Beatles' fans have written graffiti on the walls of Abbey Road Studios, a popular destination for music fans 35 years after the release of "Abbey Road."



CAVAGNARO

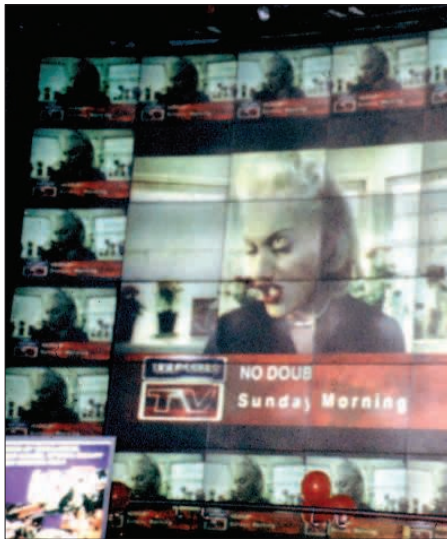
A diorama of the slaying of Thomas a Becket in the London Dungeon.

Another suggestion: Buy a copy of Time Out at any newsstand. This weekly entertainment bible contains listings of London theaters, large and small films, concerts, comedy, dance clubs, discos and more.

Enjoy a stage play at one of London's many theaters in the West End, most not more than a few blocks from Piccadilly and Leicester Squares. Few are sellouts and usually you can buy a cheap seat in the balcony from the box office for about 10 pounds, or about \$18.

With a student ID, card you can buy the best remaining seats in the theater 90 minutes before the curtain rises for some-where between 10 and 15 pounds.

Talk with your congenial British hosts and follow tourists while standing in line — "queuing" to the locals — outside Tikts (formerly the Leicester Square Half Price



Gwen Stefani of No Doubt on the video screens at Sega World, a popular shopping complex.

Ticket Booth). The booth sells tickets for many shows at half-price plus a 2 pound fee. Hours are 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday for evening shows, and noon to 2 p.m. for matinees, usually Wednesdays and Saturdays.

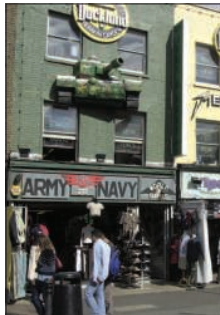
Find inexpensive eats at one of the more than half-dozen restaurant chains with the words "pizza" and/or "pasta" in their names. Garfunkles is a chain noteworthy for its fresh do-it-yourself salad bars. Indian and Chinese restaurants usually are bargains. London's colorful Chinatown is tucked away in Soho just above Leicester Square. On its fringes are a few delightful and inexpensive Japanese restaurants.

Today's most trendy Japanese eatery is Wagamama. Not only is it a great value but it also might be the easiest place to meet university students and 20-somethings.

Because of Wagamama's popularity, you probably will stand in a 30-minute "queue," but don't worry: The line is probably the coolest place in London for young men and women to meet.

If you haven't connected with new friends by the time you're in, you have a second chance as you are seated at long, crowded tables where everyone sits elbow to elbow. If you leave without meeting anyone, look in the mirror: You sites & almost certainly have the wrong approach or an attitude problem.

Pubs are everywhere and are great places to meet people. Many serve tasty and inexpensive pub-grub lunches. The British prefer to drink ale or bitter at



The shops of Camden Town — London's equivalent with the younger, alternative crowd.

room temperature. Try a pint, you might like it, although many Americans prefer cold lager.

If you are still looking to connect, try the discos and dance halls in Soho. Find them by word of mouth and, if that fails again, look in Time Out. Ask around at the huge record stores, Tower Records right on Piccadilly Circus and the two



# Old London



DENNIS A. CAVAGNARO/Special to Stars and Stripes

t for young people in London.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

valent of New York's Greenwich Village — wd.

Virgin megastores on Oxford Street, one by Marble Arch and the other by Tottenham Court Road. You can book concert there, too.

Limelight, a huge disco carved out of an 1754 church on Shaftsbury Street in Soho, goes from 8:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Legends, the Wag Club and the Hippodrome are nearby. Or dance at hip and happen-

ing Bar Rumba.

For trendy shopping for anything from clothes to crafts, hike out to Camden Lock — tube stop Camden Town — London's equivalent of New York's Greenwich Village. The jumble of eclectic shops tumbles out of an abandoned railway freight yard by the Camden Lock on Regent's Canal. And, yes, you can take an urban cruise on one of the colorfully painted canal boats. On Saturdays and Sundays, it's a glorious madhouse.

If you're looking for slightly more genteel events, catch the impromptu street entertainers in Covent Garden just outside of Soho.

For some other offbeat sights try these:

■ **Madame Tussaud's:** Admire the late Princess Diana and other members of the Royal family, even Henry VIII's many wives, at Madame Tussaud's. Remind yourself that Saddam Hussein and Moammar Kaddafi are just wax figures. Madame Tussaud is also responsible for the lifelike Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Mick Jagger, et al at the Rock Circus, a multimedia extravaganza on the history of rock and roll by Piccadilly Circus.

■ **London Dungeon:** Come here for a quick course on man's inhumanity in all of its forms. The dungeon, below London Bridge Station, offers a two-hour interactive experience of political and religious murders, tales of Jack the Ripper, the horrors of the Plague and criminal trials that the hanging judge always wins.

Based around repulsive animatronics and waxworks, with appropriately grue-



ABRAMS

Soho, a popular entertainment area, is said to have all the things that make London what it is, good and bad. Although it's no longer considered seedy, it's still an edgy place with lots of nighttime activities.



CAVAGNARO

A lifelike Jerry Lee Lewis pounds out "Great Balls of Fire" on a piano at London's Rock Circus. Rock Circus, which recently got a multimillion-pound makeover, is run by the people who operate Madame Tussaud's wax museum.

## If you go to London

Check out these London attractions:

■ **Wagamama**, 4 Streatlam St. (off New Oxford Street near the British Museum), phone 020-7323-9223; and 10A Lexington St., 020-7292-0990.

■ **The Original London Walks**, P.O. Box 1708, London NW6 4LW; 0207-625-1932; e-mail [london@walks.com](mailto:london@walks.com).

■ **Back Roads Touring Company** (Beatles & Rock tour), 14A New Broadway, London W5 2XA; phone 020-8566-

5313; e-mail [info@backroadstouring.co.uk](mailto:info@backroadstouring.co.uk).

■ **British Airways London Eye**, Jubilee Gardens, South Bank, London SE1; phone 0870-500-0600 or 870-990-8888; Web site [www.ba-londoneye.com](http://www.ba-londoneye.com).

■ **Tkts** (formerly known as the Half-Price Ticket Booth), Leicester Square; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 3 p.m. Sundays.

■ **Information:** [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com). — DENNIS CAVAGNARO

some sound effects, it now also boasts costumed staff members who jump out of the displays at unsuspecting tourists. If you're in the market to buy truly repellent items, there's a gift shop.

Just past the dungeon, come to ...

■ **War Experience**, which puts you in Winston Churchill's Britain under the terrible World War II blitz. Experience a Luftwaffe bombing raid complete with

sounds, smells and smoke, and then the horror of the V1 "buzz bomb" and V2 rocket attacks on London.

■ **Other war sites:** War buffs should explore the Imperial War Museum, the Cabinet War Rooms (Churchill's underground headquarters) and the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon in North London.

Dennis Cavnagaro, a retired Marine, is a frequent traveler and freelance writer living in California.

# Volksmarch

The Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club holds its annual event next Saturday and Sunday, so mark your calendar and start planning your trip. You'll find more information about this walk in next week's column, but for now, here are the basics.

The 5- and 10-kilometer trails will start between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday and 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday. The 20K begins 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, and again on Sunday, 6:30 a.m. to noon.

## Jennifer West

The event will be held on a wooded trail in the area of Barchen and a beer glass commemorating the club's 30th walk is the prize. B-medal souvenirs will be available in limited quantities.

Plan now to attend this walk hosted by one of our American clubs. You'll enjoy

yourself at this superbly run event not only on the trail but also in the start hall as you enjoy the company of your fellow walkers and the great club members.

A few notes about this week's events: ■ Young walkers' Tour, or Bambini-Löfers, credit is available at Hülzweiler and Wälgershausen, Germany.

■ The members of the Kaiserslautern, Germany, region, think about attending the weekend event at Bruchweiler-Bärenbach. This is always a great walk; the area and trails are beautiful. If the weather is nice, relax after your walk in the first area outside the start hall and enjoy a variety of food.

On Saturday evening, Bruchweiler has a Sommerfest (summer night party). A dance will begin at 5 p.m. and feature Herbert Kühnel, who has entertained the crowd in the last several years. The souvenir is a ceramic duck.

■ The members of the Wanderverein Rottfelen e.V. and Umgebung have moved their annual walk from Rottfelen, Germany, to the local town of Ebhausen. I would anticipate the B-medal souvenir to be last year's BMW Z8 model car. And yet again, this year the club advertised on their brochure that they will sponsor "10- and 20-kilometer trails and a small train." Once again, I'm guessing that means it will be about a 5 (or 6) kilometer course, so that's why I listed it as such.

■ The club in Hülzweiler, Germany, holds its first marathon this Saturday and Sunday. Start the 42K both days from 6 to 9 a.m. and finish by 7 p.m. I can tell you from experience that no matter the distance you choose to volksmarch, this area has great trails.

Regardless of the course you complete, a patch will be your prize. Marathoners will also take home a certificate.

■ In Italy, make these notes, as passed along by Clark Seidner, our walk coordinator there:

The Belfiore di Prammagiori event begins next to the elementary school playground. The walk is in conjunction with a feast, so there will be food at the end.

The wooden souvenir at Piancavallo is handmade and in limited quantities.

E-mail your comments and Volksmarch information to Jennifer West at [volkswalking@att.net](mailto:volkswalking@att.net). Mail, write her at: Volksmarch Column, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2859, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (APS).

Here are IVV-sanctioned events near military installations. Locations are noted in the host language whenever possible. More extensive lists are available on the IVV Web site, [www.ivv.org](http://www.ivv.org).

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
<b>Denmark</b>						
Tversted	Sat 1800-1900	-	10	Skole	No award	NE of Herring
Tversted	Sun 0900-1100	-	7 & 12	Skole	No award	NE of Herring
Tversted	Sun 0900-1100	-	20 & 25	Skole	No award	NE of Herring
<b>France</b>						
Hérémencourt	Sat & Sun 0800-1500	F	10	Salle polyvalente	No award	S of Montbéliard
Hérémencourt	Sat & Sun 0800-1500	F	20	Salle polyvalente	No award	S of Montbéliard
Hérémencourt	Sat & Sun 0800-1500	F	30	Salle polyvalente	No award	S of Montbéliard
<b>Germany</b>						
Amberg bei Buchloe	Sat 1630-1930, Sun 0600-1200	BF	5, 10, 20	Gemeindehaus	Ceramic turtle	SCH, W of Landsberg am Lech
Amberg bei Buchloe	Sat 1630-1930, Sun 0600-1200	Bike	25	Gemeindehaus	Ceramic turtle	SCH, W of Landsberg am Lech
Amberg bei Buchloe	Sat 1630-1930, Sun 0600-1200	Stoke	10	Gemeindehaus	Ceramic turtle	SCH, W of Landsberg am Lech
Bexbach	Wed 0700-1800	F	6 & 10	Sportheim Sportplatz	No award	SE of Neunkirchen
Bexbach	Wed 0700-1800	F	10	Sportheim Sportplatz	No award	SAR, E of Saarouis
Bruchweiler-Bärenbach	Sat 0700-1600, Sun 0700-1400	FPX	5, 10, 20	Fellensdichule	Ceramic duck	RP, SE of Primmarn
Ebhausen	Sat 0800-1300, Sun 0600-1300	BFX	5, 10, 20	Gemeindehalle	B-medal	BWS, SW of Stuttgart
Ellwiler	Sat 0600-1600, Sun 0600-1400	BFX	5, 10, 20	Gemeinschaftshaus	B-medal/beer glass	RP, SW of Idar-Oberstein
Ellwiler	Sat 0600-1400, Sun 0600-1200	BFX	20	Gemeinschaftshaus	B-medal/beer glass	RP, SW of Idar-Oberstein
Gärthelm	Sat 0600-1500, Sun 0600-1300	F	5, 10, 20	Sportzentrum	Porcelain cow	FRU, N of Würzburg
Herringen	Sat 1600-1800, Sun 0900-1300	Swim	300	Schwimmbad	No award	HE, E of Bad Hensfeld
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0600-1700	F	5	Sportzentrum	Patch	SAR, E of Saarouis
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0600-1600	F	5	Sportzentrum	Patch	SAR, E of Saarouis
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0600-1400	F	20	Sportzentrum	Patch	SAR, E of Saarouis
Hülzweiler	Sat & Sun 0600-0900	M	42	Sportzentrum	Patch & certificate	SAR, E of Saarouis
Kaiserslautern	Sat 0800-1200, Sun 0600-1100	F	5, 10, 20	Gasthof Schönböcker	Bird figurine pair	OFF, SE of Grafenwälder
Katschenreuth	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0600-1300	F	6 & 10	Sauba Eber	Lantern candle holder	FRO, SW of Kumbach
Katschenreuth	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0600-1300	FPX	20	Sauba Eber	Lantern candle holder	FRO, SW of Kumbach
Penndorf	Sat & Sun 0600-1400	BFX	20	Palmbachhalle	B-medal	RP, NW of Idstein
Penndorf	Sat & Sun 0600-1300	BFX	20	Palmbachhalle	B-medal	RP, NW of Idstein
Reichelscheid/Saar	Sat 0600-1600, Sun 0600-1300	BFS	5 & 10	Mehrzweckhalle	B-medal/old on swing	SAR, NE of St. Wendel
Reichelscheid/Saar	Sat 0600-1400, Sun 0600-1200	BF	20	Mehrzweckhalle	B-medal/old on swing	SAR, NE of St. Wendel
Rohrhardtsberg	Sat 1200-1700, Sun 0700-1500	F	6 & 10	Skifithaus	Stick pin	BWS, W of Tübingen
Schomdorf-Schornbach	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	BFPX	5, 10, 20	Brühlhalle	Handing candle holder	BWN, E of Stuttgart
Sinheim-Rehen	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	F	5, 10, 20	Feuhtalle	Pewter schrimps cap	BWN, SE of Sinheim
Spall	Fri 1500-1900	F	10	Fest tent	Child's garden chair	RP, NW of Bad Kreuznach
Spall	Sat 0700-1400	F	6, 10, 20	Fest tent	Child's garden chair	RP, NW of Bad Kreuznach
Spall	Sun 0700-1300	F	6 & 10	Fest tent	Child's garden chair	RP, NW of Bad Kreuznach
Spall	Sun 0700-1200	F	20	Fest tent	Child's garden chair	RP, NW of Bad Kreuznach
Waldtitten	Sat & Sun 0600-1200	F	5, 11, 20	Musikantenstadl	Clack	SCH, SE of Ulm
Windeck-Herchen	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	6, 12, 20	Turnhalle	Ceramic shoe	NRW, E of Siegburg
Windeck-Herchen	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	10	Vereinshaus	No award	NRW, E of Siegburg
Wittich Dorf	Sun 0600-1200	F	20	Vereinshaus	No award	RP, NE of Wittlich
Wölferhausen	Sat 1600-1800, Sun 0600-1300	F	6 & 10	Gemeinschaftshaus	No award	HE, E of Bad Hersfeld
Wölferhausen	Sat 1600-1800, Sun 0600-1300	F	20	Gemeinschaftshaus	No award	HE, E of Bad Hersfeld
Wölferhausen	Sun 1000-1100	Bike	25	Gemeinschaftshaus	No award	HE, E of Bad Hersfeld
Wölferhausen	Sat 0600-1200, Sun 0600-1100	F	11	Mehrzweckhalle	Model semi truck	MOB, SE of Ingolstadt
Wölferhausen	Sat 0600-1200, Sun 0600-1100	F	20	Mehrzweckhalle	Model semi truck	MOB, SE of Ingolstadt
Wölferhausen	Sat 0600-1200, Sun 0600-1100	F	20	Mehrzweckhalle	Model semi truck	MOB, SE of Ingolstadt
<b>Italy</b>						
Belfiore di Prammagiori	Sat 1800-1900	F	5 & 13	See misc.notes	Bottle of wine	W of Portogruaro
Cancello	Sun 0900-1200	FX	5, 10, 21	Piazzale della Pappa	Wooden souvenir	N of Aviano
<b>Luxembourg</b>						
Linger	Sun 0800-1400	F	5 & 11	Centre Sociétaire	No award	SW of Luxembourg city
Linger	Sun 0700-1300	F	15	Centre Sociétaire	No award	SW of Luxembourg city
<b>Netherlands</b>						
Gulpen	Sun 0800-1400	-	5 & 10	Café Paddock	No award	NE of Aachen, GE
Gulpen	Sun 0800-1300	-	15	Café Paddock	No award	NE of Aachen, GE
Gulpen	Sun 0800-1200	-	20	Café Paddock	No award	NE of Aachen, GE
St. Odilienberg	Mon 1630-1900	-	10	Café-Zaal Bergerac	No award	S of Roer
<b>Switzerland</b>						
Freudenort	Sat 0700-1300, Sun 0700-1200	-	5, 10, 20	Turnhalle	Souvenir	SE of Basel
Freudenort	Sat 1600-1900	-	5, 10, 20	Turnhalle	Souvenir	SE of Basel
<b>United Kingdom</b>						
Chichester	Sun 1000	-	13	Oaklands Park	Souvenir	-
Chichester	Sun 0900	-	25	Oaklands Park	Souvenir	-
Chichester	Sun 0730	-	42	Oaklands Park	Souvenir	-
Chichester	Sun 0930	Bike	30	Oaklands Park	Souvenir	-
Chichester	Sun 0800	Bike	55	Oaklands Park	Souvenir	-
Chichester	Mon 1000	-	10 & 20	Black Horse	No award	S of Cambridge
Harverhill	Mon 1800	-	10	East Town Park	No award	SE of Cambridge
Little Cawthorne	Tue 1845-1900	-	10	Royal Oak Inn	No award	NE of Lincoln, near Louth
Monkton Fairleigh	Sun 0800-1200	-	10 & 20	Village Hall	No award	E of Bath
Rushton	Wed 1800	-	10	Thornhill Arms	No award	NW of Kettering
<b>GENERAL CODES:</b>						
B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)						
D - Shower or wash facilities available at the start hall						
F - Free refreshment at control points						
M - Marathon or long-distance event						
P - Music at start hall						
S - Stroller-friendly trails						
T - Shorter trail is specifically noted as stroller-friendly						
U - Award available only while supply lasts						
W - Trail is accessible to wheelchair participants (and stroller friendly)						
3 - Start card and B-medal available for the reduced price of 3 euros						
<b>GERMAN STATE &amp; REGION CODES:</b>						
BBW - Brandenburg						
BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord						
BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd						
FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franken)						
FPO - Oberfranken (Upper Franken)						
FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franken)						
HE - Hessen						
MOB - München-Bavaria						
MV - Mecklenburg-Vorpommern						
NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin						
NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen						
NDB - Niedersachsen						
OPP - Oberpfalz						
RP - Rheinland-Pfalz						
SAR - Sachsen-Anhalt						
SAR - Saarland						
SCH - Schwaben						
SHS - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg						
THS - Thüringen/Sachsen						

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# Tours Outdoors

## COMPILED BY KRISTIN LOUGHLIN

### Stars and Stripes

The following are tours and events news sent to Stars & Stripes by MWR programs and the USO. Send listings at least two weeks ahead of the intended publication date via e-mail to [travel@mil.mil](mailto:travel@mil.mil). Please remember prices. August listings will appear in coming weeks.

If you have questions, please call (+49) (0) 6155-160-269.

## Belgium

**Brussels Outdoor Recreation:** July 17, Amsterdam, \$40. July 31, Paris, \$40. Call 02-717-7775 or 0474-683-544.

## England

**RAF Croughton:** July 17, deep-sea fishing from Poole, South Coast. **July 18,** horse trekking in the Black Mountains of Wales. **July 24,** Forest of Dean family walk. **July 25,** Brecon Beacons mountain horse-shoe walk. Call DSN: 236-8419 or CIV (01280) 70-8419.

## Germany

**The Armed Forces Recreation Center at Garmisch, Germany:** offers tours to the Linderhof, Munich/Dachau, Neuschwanstein, Venice, Italy and the Three Country Tour to Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Call DSN 440-0575 or CIV 08924-72981 or visit AFRC on the Web at [www.afrcurope.com](http://www.afrcurope.com).

**Darmstadt Outdoor Recreation:** July 16-18, Den Helder fishing, \$165; July 17, Czech shopping. Call DSN 348-6277 or CIV 06151-68-6277 for information and reservations.

**Katterbach Outdoor Recreation:** July 17, Europe Park. **July 24-25,** Call DSN 487-3225 or CIV 08902-93-3225.

**The 417th BSB Outdoor Recreation** at Larson Barracks in Kitzingen, Germany: Leisure travel. **July 16-18,** Euro Disney; **July 28,** Frankfurt Zoo. Adventure Travel. **July 22,** road bike ride. **July 24,** trout fishing. **July 30-Aug. 1,** white water rafting and canyoning week-

## Let's Go

### BY JAYNE TRAENDLY

#### Stripes Travel researcher

DiscoverFrance, an agency in the United States, is promoting its Paris-Plus getaways, which combine a visit to Paris with a nearby rural area. Good through October, the seven-night packages have three countryside options. All include three nights in Paris and four nights in the countryside with breakfast. Prices are based on double occupancy.

■ **Biking in the Loire Valley.** The price begins at \$982 per person. It includes four dinners, baggage transfers between hotels, maps and information. The route is rated easy and averages 24 miles per day. Bike rental is extra, at \$132, and rail is \$66 per person.

■ **Bordeaux Cycling Tour.** The price begins at \$1,291 per person and includes four pic-

nic lunches, four dinners, round-trip Bordeaux train station transfers, bike rental, baggage transfers between hotels, maps and information. The route is rated easy to intermediate and averages 26 miles per day for rolling terrain. Rail is extra at \$168 per person.

■ **Ile de France Walking.** The price begins at \$982 per person and includes two dinners, taxi transfers, baggage transfer, maps and information. The route is rated easy and averages nine miles of walking per day, flat to rolling countryside. Rail is extra at \$16 per person.

July and August reservations include a free extra night in Paris. For details, contact DiscoverFrance at (408) 905-1235. The e-mail address is [info@discoveryfrance.com](mailto:info@discoveryfrance.com). Web site: [www.discoveryfrance.com](http://www.discoveryfrance.com).

**18, 21, 24 and 29,** castles on the Rhine, \$89. **July 17,** Cochem Castle, \$89. **July 17,** esau. **July 18,** Nancy, \$95. **July 17-18,** Sound of Music, \$259. **July 17-18,** Brussels and Brugge. **July 23-25,** Prague. **July 24,** King Ludwig's castles, \$99. **July 31,** champagne tour of France. Call DSN 480-6330, 489-7064, 496-7719 or go to [www.RTTTravel.com](http://www.RTTTravel.com) tours pages.

**Wiesbaden/Dexheim Outdoor Recreation:** July 18, rock climbing in Morghenbad. **July 19,** Sinsheim museum. **July 20,** Palmengarten terrarium. **July 20,** rock climbing in Nieder Oden. **July 22,** biking in Rudesheim. **July 22,** Frankfurt Wave pool. **July 23-25,** Austrian adventure weekend. Call Wiesbaden at DSN 337-5760 or CIV 0611-704-5810 or CIV 06133-69-818.

**Spangdahlem Outdoor Recreation:** July 17, North Sea Fishing. **July 25,** July 31, Luxembourg Cave rappelling, \$35. **July 24-25,** Luxem-

bourg rafting and castle hike weekend, \$70. Call DSN 452-6466 or CIV 0656-61-6466.

**Spangdahlem ITT:** July 16-17, London express, \$109. **July 16-17,** Venice express, \$109. **July 24-25,** Bavarian highlights: Munich, Dachau, Linderhof and Neuschwanstein. **July 25,** July 31, Rothenburg o.d. Tauber, \$55. **July 31,** Strasbourg express, \$45. Call DSN 452-6466 or CIV 0656-61-6466.

**USO Rhine-Nahe Regiontour** and events. **July 16,** Evelyn's Well-ness Spa, \$29. **July 17,** Meis flea market, \$49. **July 17,** Warner Bros. Movie World, \$39. **July 17,** Frankfurt, \$29. **July 18,** Rhine river cruise, \$20. **July 20,** Lachenburg, \$10. **July 24,** Idar-Obenstein, \$49. Contact USO Darmstadt at DSN 348-7918; USO Heidelberg at DSN 370-7924; and USO Mannheim at DSN 385-3139.

**USO Stuttgart:** July 17, castles of King Ludwig, \$55. **July 18,** Ulm fisherman's jousting. **July 20,** Ulm and Munich, \$55. **July 22,** Canal. France city tour and wine tasting, \$69. **July 23,** Monte Mare water park, \$58. **July 24-25,** Karlovy Vary shopping express, \$55. **July 28,** The Romantic Road Continues: Dinkelsbühl and Nördlingen, \$45. **July 28,** Neustadt crystal shop ping, \$35. **July 30-Aug. 1,** Call DSN 340-8811 for info.

## Italy

**ITT Gaeta:** Sept. 3-6, Prague, Czech Republic. **Sept. 19-20,** Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany. **Oct. 8-11,** weekend in Sicily. **Nov. 25-28,** Thanksgiving in Paris. Extended tours are prices according to rank. Call DSN 682-7632 or CIV 0771-709-632.

**ITR Vienza:** July 16, Gardaland by night, \$12. **July 17,** spa day and party at the pool, \$12. **July 18,** Discover Scrovegni Postojna caves, \$45. **July 18-19,** Carlos Santana concert and blues festival, \$38. **July 21,** beach day in Sotomarina, \$12. **July 24,** cruise the Brenta canal, \$45. **July 24,** Paradise Island water park, \$12. **July 21,** Cinque Terre express, \$45. Call DSN 634-7094.

**USO Rome** offers daily tours. Call (+49) (0) 6-6862-4232 for more info. Check the Web site ([www.uso.it](http://www.uso.it)) for prices and times.

## GO, FROM PAGE 22

V-E day (no details yet). In the meantime, why not sit along and celebrate 60 years since D-Day?

There are several tourist information offices in London. A good one to try is the British Tourist Authority at Information Services, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL, telephone (0) 20-846-9000. Also check [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com) and [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com). Ask for a copy of London Planner, a monthly publication with useful London info including maps, sights, lodging and theater.

London can be an expensive city, but it doesn't have to be. Look for hotel bargains on the Web (I found a single room in a four-star hotel for 36 pounds plus tax, reduced from 184 pounds on [www.londontown.com](http://www.londontown.com)).

During summer vacations, there are also bargains to be had in the university residence halls. Try [www.imperial-accommodationlink.com](http://www.imperial-accommodationlink.com), [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk) and [www.lsevacations.co.uk](http://www.lsevacations.co.uk).

You can save on dining out if you take advantage of bargain lunch offers of pre-theater dinners in the West End.

If you're planning to visit several places, consider a London Pass, which entitles you to free entry to more than 50 popular attractions, restaurant discounts on buses, subway and trains where the transport option is purchased. Buy a six-day London Pass including travel and you get the seventh day free.

Get information by phone at (+44) (0) 870-242-9988 or on the Web at [www.londonpass.com](http://www.londonpass.com).

Transportation is a real deal in England's capital city. A one-day Travelcard for central London costs a mere 4.30 pounds. There are also weekend Travelcards and family Travelcards. Reach London Travel information by calling (+44) (0) 7222-1234 or go to [www.tfl.gov.uk/tube](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tube) for more details.

— RICHARD MOVERLEY

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Jan 22 Czech • Milan trip • Samaria Gorge  
Jan 28 Pottery; Vets in Spain, on Amalfi Coast  
Feb 6 Toledo, Spain • San Geronimo • Gascogne  
Feb 13 Carnival is time to go a little crazy  
Feb 20 Whiskey Trail • Germany • France  
Feb 27 Lisbon, Portugal • Moscow, Russia  
Mar 6 Southwestern Travel • Ski trails & events  
Mar 13 Iceland • Amsterdam • Oudburg He  
Mar 20 St. Petersburg • Italian fishing • France  
Mar 27 Fl. flower parade • Tulum • Middleburg  
Apr 2 Munich • Detroit • Croatia • Churchill's Bunker  
Apr 9 Wine festival • Seta • Spain  
Apr 17 Cyprus • Israeli's military • Turin, Italy  
Apr 24 Hall's • Morocco • Kenyan sea safari  
May 1 Costa Brava • Madrid • Portugal • Andalusia  
May 8 Woodstock • The Pyrenees • Nottingham, England  
May 15 Italy: Assisi, Veneto, Michelangelo, Verona  
May 22 Getting around: bus, fly, driving, & Guides

May 29 Greek Island Hopping • Zanzibar • Wine feasts  
June 5 Outdoor: Sky Diving • Hike • Caving • Bike  
June 12 Monaco • Gibraltar • Portugal • London  
June 19 Running of the bulls, San Fermin • Bull-fighting  
June 26 Tuffing in Bosnia • Croatia, Bulgaria  
July 3 Lake, Austria • Ireland • Benica • Yugoslavia  
July 10 Battle of Hastings • Channel Islands • Glasgow  
July 17 La Fête • Spanish castles • Germany • Poland  
July 24 Prague • Ft. Amsterdam • Sweden • Salzburg  
July 31 London Eye • Madrid • Baltic Web • Bilbao  
Aug 7 Mckinlay • Switzerland • Turkey • Venice  
Aug 14 Warsaw • B. France • Prince Charles residence  
Aug 21 Ireland • French Riviera • Paris • Hungary  
Aug 28 Alps • Turkey • Dinkelsbühl • Switzerland  
Aug 31 Beer for families and friends • Prague • Basel  
Sept 11 Munich • Oktoberfest • Olympiastadion • Tibet  
Sept 18 Czech capital • Berlin • Museum Island  
Sept 25 Mostel capital, Venice • Italy • Hungarian spa  
Oct 2 Irish travel • Beer & wine • Peru  
Oct 10 Thailand • Munich • Bavaria • Tours  
Oct 16 Thengui • Zanzibar • Graz, Austria

Oct 23 Italy's coast • Chiari • Strasbourg • pottery  
Oct 30 Sea Europe: Gae, AFRC, Sella Roda, Chas, Alps  
Nov 6 Dubai • UAE and Qatar • Stockholm • NL  
Nov 13 Siding & sp. • E. Europe & Balkans • Würzburg  
Nov 20 Newcastle • Antiques • London • Pub crawl  
Nov 27 Bremenburg for families and friends • Prague • Liege  
Dec 4 Gifts: Europe and Africa, Greece, Bosnia, Morocco  
Dec 11 Frankfurt • Ryaar • Italy, Grappa, Thiol, Verona  
Dec 18 Fourteen Germany towns • London theater district  
Dec 24 New Year's party  
Jan 5 Beer for families and friends • Prague • Liege  
Feb 12 Spa day • Indoor Tropical Paradise • Ski Clubs  
Feb 19 Venice Carneval • Spains Holy Week, Innard art  
Feb 26 St. Austria • Austria • England • Netherlands  
Mar 6 Sanabria Island life • Venice gondola • Slovenia  
Mar 11 St. Scotland visits • Dublin • England  
Mar 18 Medieval Germany • Keulenhof • France

Mar 25 Copenhagen • Swedish canals • Oslo • Norway  
Apr 1 Italy: Chiari • Naples • Italy, fast, slow • Milan  
Apr 8 Moazzis bike ride • Stuttgart • Wales on horseback  
Apr 15 European wines • Piedmont • Sparkling • Port  
Apr 22 Tuscany • Genoa • nites • Opera • Vinopolis  
Apr 29 Olympics: Bieding • Athens review  
May 6 The new top 10: Catamarans • EUJ, additions before others  
May 18 Tost • Venezuela • surfing, fishing • hiking  
May 20 Memorials • Vemeers' Grot • Kaadenhof • wine  
May 27 Normandy • Day trips for the 60th Anniversary  
Jun 3 Vienna • Tuscany • Italy's travel • Olympics  
Jun 10 Medieval fests • Germany • Ireland • England  
Jun 17 Paradise Island: Germany's Lake Constantine  
Prague for kids • Belgium beer • Sanabria  
Jun 24 Spain's Palace • Italy's travel • Barcelona  
Monterrot mountain • Barcelona meet as • Malaga  
July 1 Paris by Segway • Stockholm cafe culture  
July 8 Germany's Wetterau region • Berlin

STARS AND STRIPES

# Calendar

## COMPILED BY JAYNE TRÄNDLYN Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are subject to change. We recommend that you confirm details with local tourist offices.

### AUSTRIA

Telephone: (43) 1/211-140  
E-mail: inquiries@info.wien.at  
www.austria-info.at  
REUTE (Tyrol): Medieval festival, **July 23-25**  
VIENNA: Guertel night walk, **Aug. 28**. Pop music trek.

### BELGIUM

Telephone: (32) 2/50-40-390  
E-mail: info@visitebelgium.com  
BLANKENBERGE: Sand sculpture festival, **through Aug. 29**  
ZEEBRUGGE: Sand sculpture festival, **July 16-Sept. 5**  
www.zandsculpturen.be  
GHELT: Ghent festival, **July 17-26**, [www.gentsfeesten.be](http://www.gentsfeesten.be)  
SPA: French Chanson festival, **July 20-25**, [www.francofolies.be](http://www.francofolies.be)  
VEURNE: Busproceessie, **July 25**, [www.busproceessie.be](http://www.busproceessie.be)  
BRUSSELS: May tree festival, **Aug. 9**  
BRUSSELS: Flower carpet, **Aug. 13-15**. Grand place  
DINANT: Bathnud regatta, **Aug. 15**.

### DENMARK

Telephone: (45) 33/111-325  
E-mail: [at.dtd.dk](mailto:at.dtd.dk)  
www.visitdenmark.com  
AALBORG: Tall ships race, **July 30**, [www.aalborg.dk/events](http://www.aalborg.dk/events)  
ARHUS: Viking gathering, **July 23-25**, [www.moesmus.dk](http://www.moesmus.dk)

### ENGLAND

Telephone: (44) 81/46-9000  
www.visitbritain.com  
LIVERPOOL: Mersey-side street festival, **through Aug. 1**  
RAF FAIRFORD: Roy International Air Tattoo, **July 17-18**  
RAMSEY: Inter-Celtic festival, **July 18-24**  
FARNBOROUGH: International air show, **July 19-25**  
WARRICK: Folk festival, **July 23-25**  
RYOM: Roman festival, **July 24-25**  
CHESTERFIELD: Medieval market, **July 27-28**  
LONDON: State rooms open to public at Buckingham Palace, **July 31-Sept. 26**  
NOTTINGHAM: Robin Hood festival, **Aug. 2-8**  
LONDON: Great British Beer festival, **Aug. 3-7**. Olympia  
TINTAGEL: King Arthur's last battle re-enactment, **Aug. 6-8**  
KENDWORTH: Festival of history, **Aug. 7-8**  
PLYMOUTH: Fireworks championship finale, **Aug. 10-11**  
SHREWSBURY: Flower show, **Aug. 13-14**.

### FRANCE

Telephone: (33) 1/49-52-53-54

## Best bets for the week

FRANCE: Where do witches go to party in the summer? To Rouffach, of course, to the annual Witches Festival. Held Saturday in this Alsatian village, it begins at 3 p.m. with a grand parade and continues until 1 a.m. with socializing witches, street entertainment, medieval musicians and re-enactments.

GERMANY: Beer drinkers will want to head to Mainz's Town Hall area this weekend for the giant "rolling brewery" — the traveling beer bar. More than 60 stands will be set up offering beer, food and souvenirs, including T-shirts, mugs, glasses, signs, posters and watches. Look for exotic brews, such as "Tattoo Beer" and "Piercing Oily Beer," celtic beer, Chinese ginger beer and Pharaoh beer as well as the old favorites, such as Stella Artois, Corona, Guinness and Munich's Hofbrau brew. In Kluff's Beer Paradise you'll find several hundred kinds of

bottled beers from all over the world, or buy a "German renaissance beer" or "beer for peace" from Palestine in the House of 131 Beers. Entry to the fair is free.

ITALY: In 1576, after the city of Venice survived the plague, the Republic's Senate voted to build a temple to Christ the Redeemer on the Giudecca Island to thank God for his mercy. They also promised a procession to the church on the third Sunday of July. This vote and promise was the beginning of today's Festa de Redentore, which takes place Sunday. You can attend morning mass in the church and in the afternoon wander around colorfully decorated boats in front of St. Mark's cathedral that make up a "boat bridge." At 11 p.m., a grand spectacle of fireworks fill the parties on the boats (and surrounding areas) continue until dawn.

— JAYNE TRÄNDLYN

www.francoisourism.com  
NORMANDY: D-Day celebrations, **through September**  
METZ: Flea market, **July 17, Aug. 7, Aug. 29**  
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY: Tour de France, **through July 25**  
BARR (Alsace): Wine fair, **July 16-18**  
RIBEVAULLE (Alsace): Wine fair, **July 16-18**  
CHARENTAIS (Alsace): Folk festival, **July 17**  
ROUFFACH (Alsace): Witch festival, **July 17**  
RODERN (Alsace): Pinot Noir (rose) wine festival, **July 17-18**  
ROSHEIM (Alsace): Snail festival, **July 17-18**  
SEEBACH (Alsace): Streissel-hochzeit: traditional wedding ceremony, **July 17-18**  
DAMEACH (Alsace): Blueberry festival, **July 18**  
HAGUENAU (Alsace): Forest festival, **July 18**  
EQUISHEIM (Alsace): Week of the wines, **July 20-22**  
NICE: Jazz festival, **July 21-28**  
SANT-HIPPOLYTE (Alsace): Wine festival, **July 23-25**  
MARMAILLIER (Alsace): Flute festival, **July 23-31**  
DAMBACH-LA-VILLE (Alsace): Bear festival, **July 24**  
LODELHEIM (Alsace): Celtic festival, **July 24**  
AUBURE, NATZWILLER, SAINT-PIERRE, WETTELHEIM (Alsace): Village festivals, **July 24-25**  
OBERHACHLACH (Alsace): Village festival, **July 24-26**. Flower parade on July 25.

GREECE  
Telephone: (30) 1/322-3111-119  
ATHENS: Olympics, **Aug. 13-29**, [www.athens2004.com](http://www.athens2004.com)  
ATHENS: Paralympics, **Sept. 17-28**

### GERMANY

Telephone: (49) 69/7464-0  
www.germany-tourism.de  
HAMELIN: Pied Piper story, **through Sept. 12**. noon Sundays; town center.  
MAINZ: Beer fair, **July 16-18**.

ORLA: Torneo del Rioni, **Aug. 7-8**. District tournament  
MASSA MARITTIMA: Flying falcon show, **Aug. 8**  
RIVIERA: Military tattoo, **July 26-31**  
FOCHABERS: Spysfest, **July 29-Aug. 1**. Celtic festival  
ISLE OF SKYE: Highland games, **Aug. 2-4**  
DUMFRIES: Highland games, **Aug. 5-8**  
EDINBURGH: Military tattoo, **Aug. 6-28**, [www.edinburghfestival.co.uk](http://www.edinburghfestival.co.uk)  
EDINBURGH: Festival Fringe, **Aug. 8-31**.

### THE NETHERLANDS

Telephone: (31) 70/370-5705  
E-mail: [info@nbt.nl](mailto:info@nbt.nl)  
www.holland.com/uk  
SCHAAGEN: Westfriese folklore market, **through Sept. 29**  
ALKMAAR: Cheese and crafts market, **through Sept. 3**  
GOUDA: Goudes Montmartre, **through Sept. 29**. Antique flea market, Wed. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
EDAM: Cheese market, **Wednesdays through August**  
UTRECHT: De Parade, **July 16-25**. Fair  
NUMEGAN: Four-day market, **July 20-23**  
ROTTERDAM: Carnival, **July 30-31**  
AMSTERDAM: De Parade, **July 30-Aug. 15**. Fair  
NUNEN: Celtic folk festival, **Aug. 6-8**  
DEN HAAG: International fireworks competition, **Aug. 11-14**  
BARNEVELD: International hot-air balloon festival, **Aug. 11-14**  
RUNSING-NOORDWIJK: Flower parade, **Aug. 14**  
ROTTERDAM: Heineken dance parade, **Aug. 14**.

### SCOTLAND

Telephone: (44) 1463/71-6996  
www.visitscotland.com  
ISLE OF SKYE: Festival of Hebridean music, **through July 23**  
LOCH LOMAND: Highland games, **July 17**  
STONEHAVEN: Highland games, **July 18**  
INVERNESS: Highland games, **July 24**.

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ST. ANDREWS: Highland games, **July 25**  
EDINBURGH: Blues and jazz festivals, **July 25-Aug. 3**  
RIVIERA: Military tattoo, **July 26-31**  
FOCHABERS: Spysfest, **July 29-Aug. 1**. Celtic festival  
ISLE OF SKYE: Highland games, **Aug. 2-4**  
DUMFRIES: Highland games, **Aug. 5-8**  
EDINBURGH: Military tattoo, **Aug. 6-28**, [www.edinburghfestival.co.uk](http://www.edinburghfestival.co.uk)  
EDINBURGH: Festival Fringe, **Aug. 8-31**.

### SPAIN

Telephone: (34) 91/411-4014/6011  
www.tourspain.co.uk  
BARCELONA: International balloon festival, **through July 18**  
BARCELONA: Summer festival, **through Aug. 15**  
MADRID: Summer in the city, **through Sept. 30**. Cultural events.  
MALAGA, CALAHONDA, SAN PEDRO DEL PINAR, MARBELLA: Marine procession in honor of Virgen del Carmen, **July 16**  
SAN SEBASTIAN: Jazz festival, **July 23-28**  
SANTIAGO DEL COMPOSTELLA: St. James festival, **July 24-25**.

### WALES

Telephone: (44) 1222/49-9909  
LLANDUDNO: Festival, **through July 18**  
CARDIFF: Cardiff festival, **through Aug. 8**.

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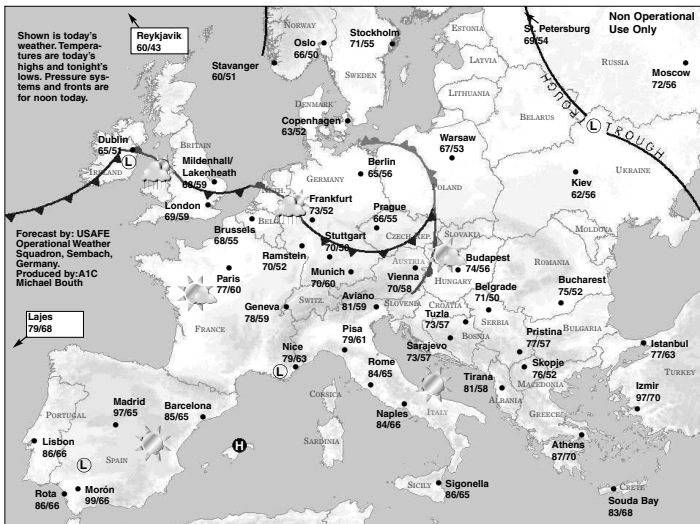
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## AFRIC

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	68	44	Mogadishu	80	7
Dakar	83	74	Nairobi	71	5
Freetown	82	74	Rabat	84	6
Kinshasa	80	65	Trinoli	95	7

## THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	69	57	Manila	89	7
Bahrain	111	84	Mexico City	72	5
Beijing	88	68	Montreal	80	6
Berlin	87	75	Riyadh	111	8
Bermuda	68	78	Rio de Jan	82	6
Caracas	81	65	Seoul	78	6
Helsinki	67	52	Sofia	70	5
Hong Kong	92	81	Sydney	61	4
Lisbon	86	66	Tokyo	88	7

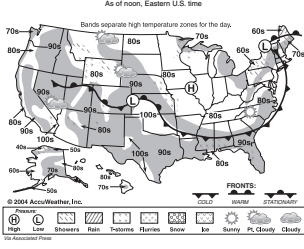
## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

## MIDEAST

A map of the Middle East region with various cities marked by black dots and labeled with their names and years. The cities and years are: Incirlik 91/72, Turkey, Ashgabat 95/69, Turkmenistan, Mazar-e-Sharif 100/72, Afghanistan, Kabul 86/61, Islamabad 90/73, New Delhi 93/81, India, Kandahar 101/73, Pakistan, Zahedan 96/66, Iran, Tehran 97/78, Baghdad 113/81, Iraq, Kuwait City 117/86, Dhahran 110/82, Saudi Arabia, Cairo 96/72, Syria, Dubai 106/90, Oman, Karachi 91/81, Hyderabad 83/71, and Bombay 87/79.

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY



## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid-50s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 50s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

**France:** Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the lower 60s.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid-60s to lower 70s and lows in the low

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s and lows in

**Hungary:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the mid-50s.

**Northern Italy:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

**Southern Italy:** Sunny. Highs in the mid-80s and lows in the mid-60s.

**Kosovo:** Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

**Norway:** Cloudy with rainshowers.  
Highs in the low to mid-60s and lows  
in the lower 50s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Sunny. Highs in the upper 90s inland and mid-80s on the coasts. Lows in the mid-60s.





**Turkey:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms inland. Partly cloudy elsewhere.

ings, and 5-day forecasts  
USAFE Operational We

<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (London)	0454	0455
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0533	0535
Sunset (London)	2113	2112
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2129	2129

Last qtr. 02/09

New Moon.

First qtr.

Full Moon

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Keith Urban performs during the Flame/Worthy Awards in Nashville, Tenn., in April. The mood this summer is sunny in Nashville, with country sales up 11.2 percent.

# Country music gets optimistic

New artists infuse life, increase sales of genre

By JOHN GEROME  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Last summer, country music's hottest act, the Dixie Chicks, was in a meltdown. Country CD sales were sliding and record executives were praying for a spate of holiday releases to perk up the industry. This year the mood is sunnier on Music Row, with country sales up 11.2 percent, a strong line of late-year releases on deck and CBS set to air a two-hour country music special Wednesday.

"There's a sense of optimism," said Luke Lewis, chairman of Universal Music Group Nashville. "The pickup in sales is not attributable to a couple of big superstars. The sales are spread out among a lot of different artists. The really good news is that new artists are contributing in a big way."

Six new artists were in the top 25 of Billboard magazine's July 10 album chart: Gretchen Wilson, Big & Rich, Josh Gracin, Julie Roberts, Dierks Bentley and Josh Turner.

Relative newcomers Keith Urban and Kacey Flatts were there, too, as were Kenny Chesney and Toby Keith — two more established artists who've recently reached superstar status.

Wilson has become a phenomenon, topping the country charts for several weeks and hanging near the top of Billboard's overall album sales chart. Her debut album, "Here For the Party," is approaching double platinum after only eight weeks on the charts.

Country sales reached 31.3 million units through the first six months of this year, compared with 28.1 million units for the same period in 2003, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Overall albums sales also were up, from 286 million units to 306 million — a 6.9 percent increase.

It's a sharp turnaround from last summer, when the Dixie Chicks were seeing a backlash from fans after singer Natalie Maines made a disparaging remark about President Bush at a London concert before the Iraq war.

Also blamed for the poor sales were an ailing economy, a dearth of releases by blockbuster artists, growing competition from DVDs and video games and illegal downloading from the Internet.



Wilson

## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2004					
AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00 Dr. Phil	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Nightline	Great Outdoor Games From Madison, Wis.	The Wild Thornberys	Yu-Gi-Oh!
9:30 Oprah Winfrey	Jackie Chan	Air Force TV News	The Simpsons	SpongeBob	Jackie Chan
10:00 Guiding Light	Jocelyndy	The Simpsons With Chris Matthews	Happy Days	The Simpsons	Jocelyndy
10:30 ESPNNews	Wheel of Fortune	60 Minutes	ESPNNews	Headline News	Headline News
11:00 General Hospital	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	One Tree Hill 'Life in a Glass House'	Headline News	Headline News
12:00 Headline News	Everybody-Ramond	Cycling Tour de France - Stage 10, Stage 10 from Limoges to Saint-Flour, France.	The West Wing 'The Long Goodbye'	Headline News	Headline News
12:30 Judge Judy	Scrubs 'WV Screamp'	Good Morning America	Dominick Dunne: Power, Privilege & Justice	Headline News	Headline News
13:00 Today Beach volleyball 'It's CoTime.'	Who Wants to Marry My Dad?	Headline News	Journeys to the Ends of the Earth	Headline News	Headline News
14:00 ER 'Where There's Smoke'	ER 'Where There's Smoke'	Headline News	Movie 'Last Bus to Woodstock' (1988) John Thaw, Inspector Morse uncovers an insurance scam.	Headline News	Headline News
14:30 Asaah! Real Monsters	Pacific Report	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:00 Hey Arnold!	The Tonight Show	World News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:30 Yu-Gi-Oh!	The Tonight Show	The Early Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:00 Jackie Chan	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00 Jackie Chan	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:30 Jackie Chan	Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:00 ESPNNews	Movie *** 'Ghostbusters' (1984, Cameo) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis.	FOX News	Golf British Open -- First Round From Royal Troon Golf Club in Scotland. (Same-day Tape)	Headline News	Headline News
18:30 Headline News	Movie *** 'Young Man With a Horn' (1950, Drama) Kirk Douglas, Lauren Bacall, Gene Kelly.	FOX News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:00 Everybody-Ramond	Scrubs 'WV Screamp'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:30 Scrubs 'WV Screamp'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:00 Extreme Makeover	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:30 ER 'Where There's Smoke'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:00 ER 'Where There's Smoke'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:30 The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:00 The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:00 Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004					
00:00 (11:30) Late Show	(11:30) Late Show	Headline News	Golf British Open -- First Round (Same-day Tape)	Headline News	Headline News
00:30 Access Hollywood	Access Hollywood	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
1:00 MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies @ NY Mets (Live)	Sesame Street (E)	ABC Wild News	Cycling Tour de France - Stage 11, Stage 11 from Saint-Florent to Puy de Fages, France. (Same-day Tape)	The Wild Thornberys	Sesame Street (E)
1:30 Little Bill	Headline News	CBS Evening News	Headline News	SpongeBob	Headline News
2:00 Countdown With Keith	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Simpsons	Headline News
2:30 Dr. Phil	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Happy Days	Headline News
3:00 Hannity & Colmes	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Dead Zone 'Deja Voodoo'	Headline News
3:30 ESPNNews	Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Headline News	Boston Public 'Chapin Twenty'	Oprah Winfrey
4:30 ESPNNews	NBC Nightly News	BET Nightly News	Headline News	The Crocodile Hunter (Part 2 of 2)	NBC Nightly News
5:00 Headline News	Judge Judy	Business Rpt.	Headline News	Headline News	Judge Judy
5:30 ESPNNews	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live	Headline News	Headline News	Access Hollywood
6:00 Headline News	Guiding Light	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	Headline News	Headline News	Guiding Light
6:30 Sesame Street (E)	Headline News	Paula Zahn Now	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
7:00 General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
7:30 Little Bill	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
8:00 Wheel of Fortune	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
8:30 Dr. Phil	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
9:00 As Told by Ginger	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
9:30 Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
10:00 Guiding Light	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
11:00 ESPNNews	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
11:30 General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
12:00 Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
12:30 Judge Judy	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
13:00 Today Paul Rudd; Barenaked Ladies.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
13:30 The District 'Blindside'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
14:00 House of Mouse	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:00 Rocko's Modern Life	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:30 Ozy & Drix 'Growth'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:00 As Told by Ginger	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00 Jocelyndy	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:30 ESPNNews	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:00 Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:30 The Simpsons	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:00 Malcom in the Middle	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:00 The Apprentice	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:30 Alias 'Blowback'	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:00 Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:00 The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:00 Late Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News

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# FACES 'N' PLACES

## Olympic records

Macy Gray, Lenny Kravitz and Avril Lavigne are among the voices welcoming the Olympics back to Athens, Greece, in three albums recorded to honor the Summer Games.

The albums, titled "Phos," "Unity" and "Harmony," were recorded for the Aug. 13-29 games, record label EMI Greece announced Monday.

"Phos," which means "light" in Greek, features songs by Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis sung by local musicians. "Unity" is made up of international stars and "Harmony" has classical songs.

"I was excited to be a part of the 'Unity' album, especially right now with the hard times we are having in the U.S. and around the world with the [Iraq] war," Gray said. "I think the Olympic Games is a great opportunity to bring a lot of people together for a positive reason."



Lavigne

## O.J.'s 90s icon on VH1

J.J. Simpson's slow-speed police chase may be the iconic moment of the 1990s, at least according to the VH1 nostalgia series "I Love the '90s."

The 10-hour program, which started with two installments Monday and runs through Friday, devotes one hour to each year of the decade, chronicling all the pop culture touchstones from Sinead O'Connor to "Beverly Hills, 90210."

Producer Karla Hidalgo said the cornerstone of the era begins in 1994, with Simpson fleeing police before his double-murder arrest.

Since the "I Love the '90s" series, which has also documented the 1970s and 1980s (twice), involves comedians and other pop-culture figures cracking wise about the past, the producers said they weren't sure they wanted to include the famed double-homicide.

"At first we weren't sure how to deal with that," Hidalgo said. "But when we started talking about it with our interviewees, what they remembered was mostly watching it and their initial reaction to it, everything from disbelief to 'Go, O.J., go!' — not really grasping exactly what had happened."

## Master P's hoop dreams fall short

Master P didn't make the cut. Perry "Master P" Miller, chief executive officer of No Limit Records, was among the players trimmed from the Denver Nuggets' summer league team before practice Monday.

"Miller, thank me and was very respectful," summer league coach Scott Brooks told The Denver Post. "I was impressed. I heard some questionable stories from other teams. He worked hard. But he even knew it and said he wasn't in shape."

In 1999, the rapper was waived from the NBA's Toronto Raptors. It was his second try to reach the pro leagues. The Charlotte Hornets wanted him the year before.



Master P

## Franken factors in new name

Al Franken's radio show, "The O'Franken Factor," is changing its name to "The Al Franken Show."

The new, more typical, show name was chosen over candidates such as "The O'Limbaugh Factor" and "The O'President Bush Factor," Franken said in a statement Monday.

Franken's daily three-hour show on the liberal talk radio network Air America Radio was dubbed "The O'Franken Factor" in a jab at Fox News host Bill O'Reilly.

The 53-year-old comedian said he's changing the name because "no other how hard we tried, conservative entertainer Bill O'Reilly wouldn't sue us."

O'Reilly had no comment Monday.

Franken

day.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Still gotta cut loose

## Bacon Brothers a serious band, though Kevin can't turn down demand to 'shake it'

BY JENNIFER FREY

The Washington Post

So the band is into its encore, and has already borrowed a tune from the Rolling Stones, when it comes time for the inevitable. It takes only the first few ripples of the song and the sold-out crowd at the Rums Head Tavern in Annapolis, Md., is whooping with excitement.

"Well, I gotta cut loose..."

And there, center stage, is an almost-46-year-old Kevin Bacon, getting jiggy once again with the song that made him a teenage heartthrob back in 1984. His hair is shaggy, his shirt is partly unbuttoned, his hips are swiveling in a pair of truly worn Levi's, and let's face it: The fans love it. So, yeah, this isn't what Bacon had in mind when he and his big brother, Michael, formed the Bacon Brothers, their folk/rock/country/soul band, a decade ago. And it's not what you get for most of the show.

But Bacon long ago succumbed to the inevitable: You can't dance your way around an abandoned washhouse, rocking those hips to a teenage anthem of rebellion, then expect to get away with becoming a musician without throwing in a little "shake it, shake it for me."

Want proof? Up near the stage, a woman can't sit still. She's tapping her feet, she's snapping her fingers, and she looks as though she's having the most fun she's had all night.

She's Kevin's big sister Ellnor.

"Oh, I loved it," she gushes when asked later about "Footloose." "Kevin brought the soundtrack over before the movie came out, and I was listening to the thing on the cassette and I loved it."

She stops, shakes free of her rapture.

"But I love them all," she quickly adds. "I love Michael's 'Don't Lose Me Boy,' which he wrote for his son, and Kevin's songs about his children and his wife..."

But there it is: Even big sis can't resist the song that first introduced her brother to the big time.

■■■

So the band's in the dressing room before show time, with the usual sprawl of buffed wings and something-or-other dip and a half-eaten burger sitting out on the table, a last-minute hunt for a replacement guitar under way (Kevin's appears to have gone missing). It's three o'clock on a brief, 10-day tour, including Annapolis, Washington and New York.

Bacon is explaining how he just decided to have fun with the whole movie star thing. He knew the critics would be eager to savage him, to paint him as yet another celebrity who thought he could rock. So he decided to poke the beast himself.

"Look, I just figured it was going to come up," Kevin says. "And I didn't want to really pretend that I wasn't an actor. So by playing the song... actually, when we first started playing, I used to talk about being an actor a lot more."

Two boys raised in a household with four sisters in Center City Philadelphia, Kevin and Michael have been tight since childhood, despite the nine-year age difference. Kevin hit Michael in the head with a melody fiddle when he was just 2 years old. "It's metal, it's sharp, it hurt," Michael says. "He let it go." Kevin clips in. Michael first taught Kevin to play the guitar when his little brother was 12.



KRT photos

Top: Kevin Bacon performs during a Bacon Brothers gig at the Key Club in Los Angeles, Calif., in April. Above: Michael Bacon shares the stage with his more famous brother. Movie star Kevin and younger brother Michael formed the band a decade ago.

"He showed me how to play a few chords," Kevin says. "Taught me how to play 'Hey Jude.'"

The band came about in 1994, when Kevin was between film projects and he and Michael decided to try their hand at writing some songs together. Again, this apparently was a long-standing Bacon boys scheme. Never mind that Kevin was now a movie star, with films such as "A Few Good Men" on his resume and "Apollo 13" on the horizon.

"We'd get together and write songs, and usually with the songs we had some kind of agenda about making a bunch of money," Kevin says.

A get-rich-quick scheme. So we'd write a song about some novelty thing. Roller disco or preppies or safe sex or whatever it was. Then we had this idea it would be easy to write a country song, so we tried to write a country song. But then a friend asked them to play together at a charity event in their hometown, and they hesitantly agreed. From there, they added some more band members, started writing more songs and slowly added some small gigs.

"I think, intuitively, we saw that if we wanted to become successful, we had to do it that way," Michael says of starting out without trying to trade on his brother's celebrity status. "In some ways, though, it is a get-rich-quick scheme, only it hasn't quite happened that way."

Kevin laughs. "Yeah," he says. "Only we haven't gotten rich and it hasn't been quick."





## OPINION

## Malpractice laws get trial run in campaign

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In a case you hadn't noticed, John Edwards, the North Carolina senator selected as John Kerry's running mate, is a lawyer.

Not just any kind of lawyer, either. Edwards is a trial lawyer. His appointment last week elevates what once had been a relatively obscure field of practice — liability law — to the short list of issues that will shape the upcoming election.

Republicans, including President Bush, who listed tort reform as among his first priorities when he was elected governor of Texas, have been pushing changes in liability law for almost a decade. But the issue never really caught fire with most voters until malpractice insurance rates for doctors began to skyrocket two years ago.

Claiming an effort to eliminate frivolous lawsuits, conservatives have pushed through broad legislation in several states that makes it more difficult for individuals to sue doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and even corporations. Despite that, almost all the public focus on tort reform has remained on malpractice law and its impact.

As long as we're going to be having this discussion over the next three months or so, we ought to at least agree on some basic facts.

It's heartening, for example, to hear plaintiff attorneys talk about their desire to improve health-care quality. But that's not really what these lawsuits are all about. There are faster and more efficient ways of weeding out bad doctors than by having individ-

ual patients file suit, even if those ways aren't used often enough in most states.

We could, and should, toughen the requirement that doctors and hospitals report impaired physicians. We could outlaw settlements where evidence of misconduct or incompetence remains secret. We could increase budgets for licensing boards and force them to do more of their work in public.

Malpractice laws exist for one reason and one reason to reform: to compensate patients who have been seriously injured or killed by the negligence of a doctor, hospital or nursing home.

It is undeniably true that malpractice cases contribute to the high cost of health care. But they are by no means driving the growth of health care costs, as Bush has insisted. In fact, it may be the other way around. Malpractice settlements often cover future medical costs, and it is that component of awards that has increased quickest. No wonder, health insurance rates have been increasing at double-digit rates for years.

Even with their sudden rise, malpractice insurance premiums for doctors, hospitals and nursing homes collectively accounted for only about 1 percent of health care spending in 2002. Eliminate the concept of malpractice suits entirely and we still would spend more money on health care than any other nation on earth.

Of course, premiums are also a small part of overall costs. There's also the cost of defending frivolous suits and other claims that ultimately are dropped, payouts to vic-



tims, and insurance company overhead. Tillinghast-Towers Perrin, a private consulting firm, estimates that U.S. tort costs reached a record \$23.1 billion in 2002.

But only about 10 percent of those costs — \$25 billion — involve medical malpractice. That figure represents a 9.8 percent increase over the prior year, only slightly higher than the 9.3 percent increase in overall health care spending.

By most standards (except perhaps the military's), \$25 billion is a lot of money. Not in health care, though. Consider that during 2002, spending for hospital care grew by \$42.2 billion, an increase of 9.5 percent.

Spending on prescription drugs grew by \$21.6 billion, a 15.3 percent increase. And the cost of administering private health insurance grew by \$22.9 billion, an increase of 16.2 percent.

It's fair for Edwards' opponents to question the cases he has taken and the legislation he has supported. But it's not helpful — and it's certainly not fair — for politicians on both sides to mischaracterize the tort reform debate.

This isn't about improving health care quality or meaningfully reducing costs. It's about trying to perfect an imperfect legal system so that it is fair to doctors and their patients. That's hard enough.

## How media arrive at all the news that's fit to print

BY EDWARD WASSERMAN

Do the news media have a political agenda? That's a perennial question, but it has special resonance in this unusually shrill electoral season.

For the strongly partisan, the media are like some nightmarish mirror in a horror movie: You look into it, and your bitter enemies sneer back at you. The right, noting attitudes surveys of journalists, sees a liberal cabal. The left, pointing to conglomerate ownership and market-driven news, sees a leaden centrism. Journalists, helpfully, insist the media have no politics. That's something no outsider with half a brain believes for a second, which is too bad, because if what journalists mean is that the media have no coherent politics, they're telling the truth.

The politics of news is like one of those lunatic pizza pies that you use to find in Mad magazine. There, poking out from the molten cheese, you'd have your toppings: spare tire, discarded fishbowl, Yield sign, tree limb. Plenty of variety, all indigestible.

Trying to make sense of media politics means looking at more than how adorning a particular candidate is pictured or how wildly a newspaper peddles a politician's self-serving tale. You have to look at the world the media construct for us, what they put out and what they keep out.

Welcome to the pizza. You get stories crying out for imaginative new government programs, which the news will later delight in exposing as wasteful and ineffectual. The private sector is run by brilliant and far-sighted magnates whose greed and lust for plunder will be the focus of equally zealous coverage. Our country is kindly uncle to the world, which trusts us for our goodness and deserves us for our hesitations and wealth. All this we learn from the media.

It's a politics of doctrinal incoherence. It arises from the fact that the realities being

reported are themselves elusive and contradictory, and that news is itself a battlefield of facts and ideas, where combatants inside and outside the media are continually skirmishing over what's happening, what it means and whether the news audience will select fraction of the public — is interested in hearing about it.

The political impact of news often has less to do with overt positions — for this, against that — than with the ways in which issues are framed and what play they're given. Is gay marriage about individual freedom or moral decline? And is playing it big a back-handed way to favor rightist candidates by stirring up the constituents? These are big, messy things. Labeling journalists as "liberals" doesn't get you very far toward understanding the same media that administered a strongly conservative administration clear to Baghdad.

It's true that in polls journalists describe themselves as liberal more often than the

general population does. You'd expect that of a profession that demands its practitioners to be middlebrow, skeptical, public-spirited and chronically underpaid.

But the larger politics of the media no more derives from the preferences of journalists than the politics of the Vatican is based on the concerns of parish priests. In both cases, vows of obedience to professional norms prevail. Reporters in Iraq may have doubted that aerial bombardment was a good way to spread the blessings of liberty, just as reporters in Washington wondered if bankrupting the treasury through tax cuts was sound economic stimulus. But those doubts didn't stop them from reporting on both with often maddening neutrality.

Plus, media owners have businesses to run. If we were discussing the politics of Microsoft or Boeing, we'd start not with social philosophy but with self-interest. Uniquely among powerful institutions in this society, the media are presumed, even by their

harshes critics, to be motivated by principle.

In fact, media-owning corporations have enormous interests of their own that impinge on an ever-widening swath of public policy. These are hugely important issues, ranging from campaign finance reform (who ends up with those millions?), broadcast deregulation and antitrust, to virtually everything related to the Internet, intellectual property, globalization and free trade, and so on to minimum wage, affirmative action and environmental policy (SUVs are very heavily advertised).

This isn't to say that media still mindlessly follow for their owners, any more than their reporters are stealth operatives for pet causes. What it suggests is that media politics is a tricky and complicated matter, and deserves careful examination, not hair-trigger denunciations.

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington State University in Lewiston, Va. We wrote this column for The Miami Herald.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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# Horoscope

A beautiful symbiotic feeling accompanies the sun and moon in Cancer. It's like the world is open to emotions—the good, the bad and the ugly are all a part of natural human expression. Accepting the brightness and the shadow inside yourself allows you to live more compassionately. Small social groups get along beautifully.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(July 15)** This is one of your most event-filled, thrilling years to date. You make incredible personal strides in the next seven weeks toward fulfilling a lifelong ambition. This gives you the confidence you needed to attract the love you'd like to be a constant in your life. A Libra or Scorpio appreciates you right off the bat. Some of you may marry in January.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The more you mix and mingle with the general public today, the happier you'll be. Meeting new people brings out the best in you (even if you don't particularly like them). Big news from somewhere in your family is featured.

## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

With so much competing for your attention, it's easy to pass up the thing that obviously requires your consideration. Someone who interrupts you consistently or at particularly annoying junctures is in desperate need of attention.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You're usually charismatic, but now, your natural talents are even more magnified, attracting everyone around you to your cause — it almost doesn't seem fair to the rest of us! Work on devising a strategy for your business.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You have to underestimate the power of feeling like you belong. The drive to be connected to and accepted by others could cause you to agree to something you normally wouldn't see yourself doing. It's an adventure!

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your imagination is so active! Keep vigilantly focused on positive thoughts

because you could easily recreate old fears in your mind or conjure up new ones. Why stay in a state of chronic readiness for escape or battle?

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The world is your oyster, and you'll do well to sharpen your oyster knife. Without the proper tools, it sure is hard to get to the inside, where all the good stuff is. Your chief weapon is communication.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

If you're offered a gift, take it. If you don't think you'll use it, give it away later. But it's important to give the universe a sign right now, reinforcing that you're willing to receive whatever bounty comes your way.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Take in the scene around you, and anticipate the perfect moment to make your entrance. New propositions affect your career. You'll be tempted to jump at a decent offering.

Even better could be waiting.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Show up ready to rumble at work — if you're not there to do the job, an upstart will swoop in and steal your glory! The best moments of real love are unplanned, but it may take a lot of planning to get there.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You may find yourself testing the affections of those close to you. Don't worry about what is said in the heat of passion, but instead, look for love in kind actions. Give points for the gesture of simply showing up.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

A conjunction of sorts is featured. You get the acknowledgment you've wanted for so long. Your legendary social graces could net you a dinner invitation. What you take for granted, others would fight to have.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Lessons have to do with recognizing your authentic self and your unique attributes. It's really not hard to tell the difference between what's yours and what you're taking on for someone else. Dare to shed a false identity.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



## Calvin and Hobbes



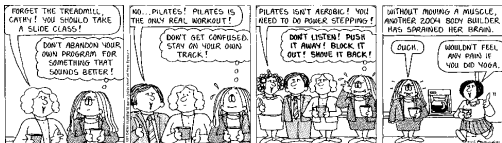
## Jump Start



## Zits



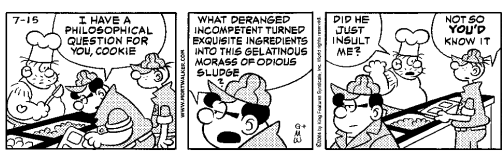
## Cathy



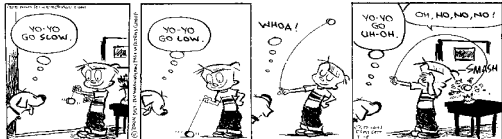
## Hi and Lois



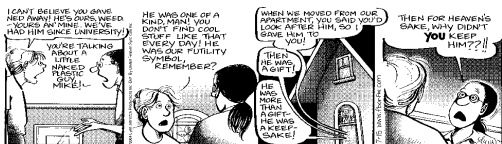
## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



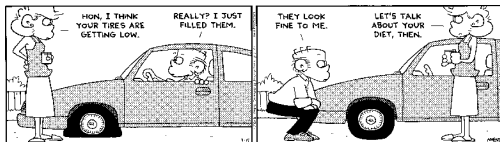
## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



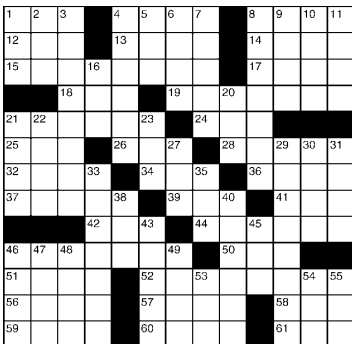
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Tire-pressure meas.
- 4 Makes lace
- 8 Get ready
- 12 Many millennia
- 13 "Bonanza" role
- 14 Move like molasses
- 15 Replace humans with robots
- 17 Angry
- 18 "The Crying Game" org.
- 19 Outstanding athlete
- 21 Samuel Richardson novel
- 24 Falsehood
- 25 Eggs
- 26 Conclusion
- 28 There's a lot of interest in it

## Down

- 1 Shell-game need
- 2 Without a — (broke)
- 3 Hint
- 4 Mexican entree
- 5 Computer language
- 6 "See ya"
- 7 Bloodhound's clue
- 8 Have
- 9 Origin
- 10 Pound of poetry
- 11 Juror, e.g.
- 16 Tramcar contents
- 20 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
- 21 Circumstance partner
- 22 State

- 23 Pismire
- 27 Homer's expulsive
- 29 Last
- 30 Reddish steed
- 31 Safecracker
- 33 River offshoot
- 35 Pie material?
- 38 Trinity member
- 40 The way we were?
- 43 Nancy of "Access Hollywood"
- 45 Caribbean expert
- 46 Beckoned, in a way
- 47 Hydrox rival
- 48 Rend asunder
- 49 One side of the Urals
- 53 Take a whack at
- 54 AAA job
- 55 Storm center

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-15

## CRYPTOQUIP

T R O O D X Z R X R M M T R V Z  
Y I R Y I R O A Z Z J K D Y H R Q Z E  
S K D H E A Z S R H H Z E R

Q Z E E T J V A R I J Z E.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR PARENTS AND SIBLINGS ARE PHYSICISTS, YOU MIGHT BE CALLED A NUCLEAR FAMILY.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals D





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# MLB working to re-establish baseball in America's cities

## Football, basketball more popular with urban youths

By RANDY PENNELL

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The little neighborhood diamond is unlined and overgrown. The infield grass nibbles at the edges of the base paths. A large dirt pile looms dangerously down the third base line.

Nestled between dilapidated homes and windowless warehouses, this Philadelphia field is a world away from the baseball ballparks that now dot the major league landscape, but it's at the heart of the game's effort to rebuild its image among blacks and other urban minorities.

Jerry Bolgitz, 36, director of the fledgling Grays Ferry Rookie League, sits on a splintered bench watching a game between teams of 8-to-12-year-olds, most of them black. Their stances are awkward, their swings flailing. On the bench, he reminds his young sluggers how to stand at the plate.

"These kids, they're never picked up a bat," he sighs. His league, its history measured in games, not seasons, is one program fostered by Major League Baseball to boost the game's popularity in cities. And without it and others like it, there is concern blacks could largely disappear from the game.

"African-American players seem to be dwindling in numbers," says Phil Phillips, 51, elder Doug Glanville, one of two black players on the Phillies' active roster. "You hate to see any segment that was such a prevalent force previously. I won't say disappear, but headed that direction."

Ten percent of major league players in 2001-02 were African-American, down from 17 percent in 1989, according to the 2003 Racial and Gender Report Card from the Institute for Diver-

**"It seems like a lot of young kids coming up wanting to be LeBron James. It looks like it's an easier road because it's a more glamorous road."**

Jimmy Rollins  
Phillies shortstop

sity and Ethics in Sport, well below the peak figure of 24 percent about 25 years ago.

For this reason, Major League Baseball and its teams have poured millions of dollars into programs like Rookie League, a \$3 million Youth Baseball Academy under construction in Compton, Calif., and Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI), the league's flagship urban baseball program.

"One of the main goals is to attract minorities, and that can be of any color, to the game on and off the field," said Tom Brasuell, the league's vice president of community relations. "We also certainly want to get them into the ballparks."

Diversity is a "business imperative" that first caught the attention of the NBA and is now acknowledged by other sports and important to baseball's long-term health, said Richard Lapchick, the report card's author.

"They're trying to use RBI and this academy in Compton to market to communities of color and I think for the business of baseball

they need to have black fans," he said.

But even the programs initiated by Major League Baseball that once targeted largely black areas are experiencing a shift in participation, Brasuell said.

"As recently as four years ago the number of black players in RBI was 61 percent, that's now down to about 50 or 55, and Latino players make up more of those numbers," he said.

The New York RBI program is heavily Puerto Rican, Brasuell said.

Boston's features many Dominican players. Cubans comprise a large part of the Miami program while Houston and Los Angeles have seen many Mexican players enter their programs.

"There may have been a bend toward areas that were heavily African-American, but that's changing," Brasuell said.

The rising popularity of basketball — 78 percent of NBA players are black — has been cited as a major factor in that change.

"It seems like a lot of young kids coming up wanting to be LeBron James," said Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins, who returns to his native Alameda, Calif., to tutor young players from his old neighborhood. "It looks like it's an easier road because it's a more glamorous road."

Roger Gordon, a former collegiate baseball player and a long-time youth coach, said that's mostly black recreation center teams in southwest Philadelphia dwindle from 27 to 10 in the last decade.

All his best athletes play basketball and football.

He recalled Maurice Stovall, once a promising baseball player but now a wide receiver at Notre Dame.

"A Catholic [high] school



Members of the Grays Ferry Rookie League, from left, Robert McCrae, Earl Tilgham and Fitz Vaughn Green, take part in a game last month in Philadelphia. The league is sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies and is geared toward promoting the sport in urban areas.

snapped him up to play football," he said. "And that was the end of him as a baseball player."

Meanwhile, the influx of Latin American talent has changed the face of professional baseball over the last 15 years. Latino players now make up 28 percent of major leaguers, up from 13 percent in 1989.

Baseball's popularity in Latin America and the low cost of developing players there has provided a fertile feeder system for Major League Baseball, Brasuell said.

In the Dominican Republic, for example, "what it costs to develop a number of players could pay just one [major league] signing bonus," he said.

But the league continues to make efforts to reach out to the black community.

The annual league-wide celebration of Jackie Robinson Day, which started this year, and increased acknowledgment of the contribution of the Negro Leagues are among the initiatives to encourage interest among blacks, Brasuell said.

Even promotions as simple as games in which teams wear the now-fashionable retro jerseys can aid baseball's cause, he said.

"If it takes a throwback to get them on the field, that's fine," Brasuell said. "Once they're in, it's hard not to like the game."

# Selig hints at extending term, calls for changes in drug policy

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig appears to have changed his mind about leaving his job in 2006.

Selig, 57, has run baseball since September 1992 and repeatedly had said he intended to retire at the end of his current term. But during an appearance Tuesday before the Baseball Writers' Association of America, Selig said his time in office has "at least 2 1/2 [years] and maybe more to go."

"As for my own personal situation, it's something that the future will decide," he said.

Selig first took the job on an interim basis following Fay Vincent's forced resignation, and was elected by owners in July 1998. In November 2001, his term was extended through Dec. 31, 2006 — 12 days after baseball's current labor contract expires.

Asked by the Associated Press Sports Editors in April 2003 whether he would leave



Selig

structive and intensive." He called for a change to the way baseball treats first offenses. Currently, a player who tests positive for a banned steroid initially is sent to counseling.

"You certainly, I believe, need a penalty on the first offense. I don't think there's any question," he said.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, declined comment.

Selig said baseball was not conducting its own investigation into illegal steroid use but was monitoring the federal drug jury

in California that indicted Barry Bonds' personal trainer, who pleaded innocent. Bonds has denied using illegal steroids.

"They're a lot of players who are playing under a cloud," Selig said. "It's unfair. It's just wrong, it's just absolutely wrong. They have to do something wrong."

He also said baseball's decision to ban anastroderone, the steroidlike supplement Mark McGwire used in 1998, should not tarnish McGwire's accomplishments, including his then-record 70-homer season. Selig called criticism of McGwire "grossly unfair" and when asked whether an asterisk should be put next to McGwire's totals, said "absolutely not."

On another topic, Selig said he had changed his mind about increasing the number of teams in the postseason from the current eight.

"A year ago, I would have told you I believe we're going to expand the playoffs. I went in convinced we needed two more teams," he said. "Last October was so good that you started to worry about tampering

with something that was that good. The more we looked at it, it became obvious that maybe two [more] teams wasn't quite what I thought it was. We finally decided in January or February: Let's stick with what we've got for a while. Unless something major comes up, I think we're just going to stay where we are."

Selig was alarmed by the decrease in black players in recent decades and hoped baseball's initiatives would help reverse that.

"Something happened in the '60s and '70s. We didn't reach out enough. Football and basketball became more viable options," he said.

He has pushed owners to increase minority employment.

"We've had good success in front offices, not as good in some areas as we should, certainly in field managers and others, we've made a lot of progress, but we [have] work to do," he said. "This may be another case where baseball was too passive in that era where you should not have been passive."

# Astros fire Williams, hire Garner

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

**HOUSTON** — The Houston Astros fired manager Jimmy Williams and replaced him with Phil Garner on Wednesday, a last-ditch effort to rescue a season that started with World Series expectations.

Garner, a former player with the Astros, told The Associated Press about the move in a telephone interview. The Astros scheduled a news conference Wednesday to make the announcement.

"I'm excited. I'm a Houston boy and I'm looking forward to it," said Garner, a former manager with Detroit and Milwaukee. "We got some boys on the team that I think can do something really special. This is an opportunity that I've been waiting for."

Williams' job security had been the subject of speculation for a month, right about the time Houston's surprising slide down

the NL Central standings began.

Houston was 44-44 heading into the All-Star break, a remarkable disappointment for a team that led the NL Central for the first six weeks of the season.

The season began with expectations of the club's first World Series appearance in its 42-year history after the offseason acquisition of former New York Yankees teammates Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens. The Astros went into the All-Star break with six losses in their past eight games, finishing the first half of the season in fifth place in the NL Central. Houston is 10½ games behind division-leader St. Louis — the first time they've faced a double-digit deficit at the break in 11 seasons.

During pregame introductions for the All-Star Game Tuesday night, a sellout crowd at Minute Maid Park voiced its frustration by booing Williams. Williams doffed his cap, but was clearly embarrassed.



Williams

to clinch a playoff berth since then.

The Astros have been surprisingly punchless on offense, ranking only 19th in the majors in scoring. Their highly touted pitching staff has struggled as both Pettitte and Wade Miller have spent time on the disabled list. And Carlos Beltran hasn't been the quick fix they expected — the All-Star center fielder is hitting .263.

The fans' booting of Williams likely didn't escape the attention of owner Drayton McLane and General Manager Gerry Hunsicker.

Hunsicker has repeatedly emphasized that the club has loaded up solely for an autumn finish — Beltran is a free agent, Clemens was coaxed out of retirement, Jeff Kent and Craig Biggio are in the final years of their contracts and Jeff Bagwell is nearing the end of his career.

Garner, an Astros infielder from 1981-87, was hired as Milwaukee's manager in 1992, leading the Brewers to a 92-70 record and a second-place finish in the AL East. That has been his best season as a manager, and Garner was fired by Milwaukee after 112 games in 1999.

The Tigers hired Garner in 2000, going 145-179 over the next two seasons before firing him after the lost first six games of the 2002 season.

## Angels unlikely to acquire Johnson

BY BILL SHAIKIN

Los Angeles Times

**HOUSTON** — Anaheim Angels owner Art Moreno all but pulled his team out of the Randy Johnson derby Tuesday, expressing admiration for the five-time Cy Young Award winner but pledging to keep the core of his minor league system intact.

General Manager Bill Stoneham has long insisted that he would not trade his top prospects. Moreno, in his first full season of ownership after a winter in which he spent \$146 million on free agents, said he would not order Stoneham to pursue Johnson, the ace of the Arizona Diamondbacks' staff.

"I won't do that," Moreno said. "That's not the way we'll do business. That won't come from me." Johnson said Monday he would consider waiving his no-trade clause to join a World Series contender, with the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs among the suitors. The Los Angeles Dodgers are talking about a trade with Arizona, but not necessarily for Johnson.

Moreno called the 40-year-old Johnson "a Hall of Fame pitcher and a tremendous pitcher, still," but trading for him this season would add \$16 million to the Angels' player payroll next season. Moreno plans to lower the payroll from \$108 million this year to between \$90 million and \$100 million next year.

Although Johnson would improve the Angels' chances to win this season, Moreno said he does not want to wreck Stoneham's plan to replenish the roster affordably by trading prospects who might become everyday players soon. In exchange for Johnson, the Diamondbacks are believed to



Anaheim's front office said it prefers to stay away from big-money players like Randy Johnson, above, in favor of building through its minor league system.

have asked the Angels for at least two of their top three prospects — third baseman Dallas McPherson, first baseman Casey Kotchman and catcher Jeff Mathis.

"One of my commitments is that we are going to build a championship team long term," Moreno said. "I don't think the right way to do that is to give up part of our minor league system."

The Angels do not appear to have a surplus of overwhelming major league talent to persuade the Diamondbacks to trade their franchise player. Reliever Scott Shields is attractive, but reserve outfielder Jeff DaVanon is eligible for salary arbitration next year, and disgruntled reliever Ramon Ortiz carries a \$5.5 million option.

Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta declined to comment specifically on Johnson but said recent events had not affected his conversations with Arizona General Manager Joe Garagiola Jr.

"No, not specifically," DePodesta said Tuesday. "I have talked to him recently, but that puts him in a group of about 15 to 20 GMs. I've been talking to Joe for a few weeks."

The Diamondbacks, with the worst record in the major leagues, are uncertain about trading Johnson but are interested in trading other veterans, including infielders Roberto Alomar and Steve Hillenbrand and outfielders Danny Bautista and Steve Finley.

## This is serious business

BY JIM SALISBURY

The Philadelphia Inquirer

**HOUSTON** — Kill it.

Keep it.

They have now played two All-Star Games that, ahem, have counted, and the players and Major League Baseball still have a hefty difference of opinion over whether the exhibition contest should continue to determine which league gets home-field advantage in the World Series.

### Commentary

Commissioner Bud Selig says the matter should not be open to negotiation.

Meanwhile, the players, who must approve the concept if it's going to continue next season, basically hate the idea.

"I don't like it from Day One," said Boston pitcher Curt Schilling. "I don't see why it's so difficult to be like everyone else and let the best record dictate home field."

"Droo," said New York Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield. "It doesn't make a whole lot of sense."

Schilling and Sheffield are American Leaguers who, come October, might benefit from Tuesday night's 9-4 victory over the National League. But that's not about to change Schilling's opinion of the current all-star setup.

"Home-field advantage is big," he said. "I'm sure it would be big in a place like Boston. But I still don't like this."

Selig has two big slabs of meat on his plate right now — the relocation of the Montreal Expos and a tougher steroid policy. (It appears as if Pett Rose has slipped off Bud's plate and fallen onto the floor. Pett had better hope the Commish doesn't have a change of heart. The Expos get their new home and the steroid policy is toughened so that it includes a suspension and public flogging for first-time offenders. Selig must get around to letting everyone know if next year's game in Detroit will have a prize attached or not.

First, he must persuade the players association to go for it again.

The union will. Grudgingly. But it will. We would bet on a two-year extension, through the 2006 season. Not coincidentally, that's how long Fox's golden-globe broadcast contract — six years, \$2.5 billion — has to run.

It's Fox's game and they have a significant voice," Schilling said. "I just don't think people outside the game should dictate something with as much impact as this."

Fox likes the idea of a game that means something, even if there no evidence that players compete with more intensity — something Selig wanted

— or managers like Joe Torre say their No. 1 goal is still to get everyone in the game. That's where this whole thing started in the first place. Two years ago, Torre and Bob Brenly ran out of players in extra innings and the game was declared a tie. Selig took a lot of heat, and it was undesired because he wasn't the one who ran out of players.

Neither side ran out of players Tuesday night. But Roger Clemens ran out of magic.

This was his All-Star game, in his hometown. He was the Most Valuable Player in 1986, the last time the game was played in Houston.

This time, he was the Least Valuable Player, giving up six runs in the first inning.

Selig made it clear Tuesday that Fox wants this all-star format, and that sponsors like interleague play. The fans also like interleague play, as attendance figures show. The average attendance for this year's interleague games was 33,000. Regular games have averaged just over 29,000.

"For years, baseball was this dinosaur that didn't care what its customers, the fans, said," Selig said.

"Our fans are the most vocal. They like this (all-star) arrangement. Our advertisers like it. What am I supposed to do, tell them we don't like it? I'm not doing it. Those days are over in this sport."

Sheffield scoffed. "Bud's looking at popularity," he said. "It's not doing a lot of things to get the public appeal. If people say they like it, as much flak as he's taken, he'll stay with something people like."

Most players hate the concept. Some, like Florida Marlins third baseman Mike Lowell, come down somewhere in the middle. That's not surprising, considering Lowell's Marlins started in Yankee Stadium in the eye in October and defeated the home team and all its pinstriped ghosts to win the World Series in six games.

Under the deal, the NL would have had home-field advantage in last year's World Series. Hank Blalock's game-winning homer gave home field to the American League.

Lowell didn't mind being away from home for the clinching Game 6.

"It's a better story to celebrate at Yankee Stadium rather than the hallowed confines of Pro Player Stadium, with all the statues," he said.

Status? "I think we have one of Dan Marino," Lowell deadpanned.

Still, home-field advantage in the World Series is important.

Schilling's former Arizona team showed it in 2001. The Anaheim Angels showed it in 2002. Both teams won Games 6 and 7 at home to win the Series.

Will the home field make a difference in this year's World Series?

We'll find out in October.



Most players dislike that home-field advantage the World Series is decided in the All-Star Game. But it didn't help Mariano Rivera or the New York Yankees last year.

# Soriano an MVP in own right after being swapped for one

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

**HOUSTON** — Now the Texas Rangers can say they traded an MVP for an MVP.

Alfonso Soriano was the other guy in the deal that sent Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees last winter. On Tuesday night, Soriano became the star of the All-Star Game, hitting a three-run homer off Roger Clemens in the first inning and earning the Most Valuable Player award in the American League's 9-4 win.

"I feel a little sorry because he's been nice to me all the time," said Soriano, Clemens' former teammate on the Yankees.

Because of the trade, A-Rod and Soriano will be forever linked, their performances compared, a modern day Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio.

Soriano, a three-time All-Star at age 28, hit .289 with 17 homers and 55 RBIs in the first half, helping the surprising Rangers take a two-game lead in the AL West

after three years of last-place finishes with A-Rod.

Rodriguez, an eight-time All-Star and the 2003 AL MVP, hit .270 for the AL East-leading Yankees with a team-high 22 homers, 58 RBIs and 18 steals — fine numbers, but below the even higher expectations he created for himself. He was 1-for-3 with an RBI triple Tuesday night.

"I think he's doing his job with the Yankees and I'm doing my job in Texas," Soriano said. "I'm happy for him, but happy for me, too."

Soriano's 343-foot shot off Clemens was his second All-Star homer following a drive off Dodgers closer Eric Gagne two years ago. It sailed over the "This One Counts" banner hanging over the out-of-town scoreboard on the short porch in left field and gave the AL a 6-0 lead.

He followed that with a third-inning single and a fifth-inning strikeout, going 2-for-3. He also made a nice pickup on Sammy Sosa's third-inning grounder to second.

"I've seen him do it for several years," said former Yankees teammate Derek Jeter.

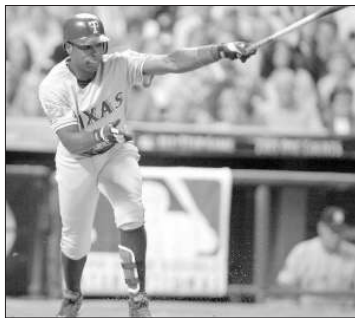
Surrounded by his friends, Soriano felt as if he was in the Bronx.

"I feel tonight, honest, like I'm coming back to play for the Yankees," he said. "Having Joe Torre [as] manager, Jeter at short, [Johan] Santana at first."

Socks stretched up high and all-ways ready with a big grin, Soriano was a hit with the Yankees. His homer in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series put Clemens in position to win before Arizona rallied in the ninth. But all of Soriano's neat feats in New York, fans dwelled on his postseason last October, when he hit 206 one-homer, nine RBIs and a record 26 strikeouts in 68 at-bats.

When the opportunity arose in February to acquire Rodriguez, New York pounced and sent Soriano to the Rangers.

"I think it was a great trade for Sor because I think the people in New York lost sight of how inexpensive he is," Torre said. "So I



The Rangers' Alfonso Soriano went 2-for-3 with a three-run homer and was selected the MVP of the All-Star Game on Tuesday in Houston.

think it was an opportunity for him to get out, and he seems to have a smile on his face all the time."

Fans around the nation responded to Soriano's performance this season by giving him the most votes in balloting for the starting lineup, 3.47 million. And he rewarded them, becoming the first top vote-getter to earn the MVP award since fan balloting resumed in 1970.

He's only the fourth second baseman to win it, following Joe Morgan (1972), Julio Franco (1990) and Roberto Alomar (1998). After receiving the trophy from Commissioner Bud Selig, Soriano went straight to the interview room and beamed as his mother looked on from a front-row seat.

"Everything is for her," he said.

## All-Star: Much anticipated battery has little power

ALL-STAR, FROM BACK PAGE

Clemens and Piazza took a few feet apart before the team picture was taken near the hill in center field at Minute Maid Park, but did not speak to each other.

And while winning pitcher Mark Mulder warmed up with Rodriguez, Clemens started getting ready with a bullpen catcher. Piazza came over and caught just a couple of pitches before leaving the bullpen for pregame introductions.

Before Ramirez hit a two-run homer on an 0-2 delivery, Clemens and Piazza took several seconds to agree to what Clemens said was a little indecisive.

"We were a little indecisive that," Piazza said.

Piazza applauded, however, when Clemens was honored by Commissioner Bud Selig in a ceremony on the first-base line after the fourth inning.

Piazza said he spoke with Clemens in the trainer's room before the game, going over hitters and discussing some things the catcher described as "personal."

"It was very amicable," Piazza said. "It wasn't awkward."

That said, Piazza never went to the mound while Clemens struggled and sweated. But when Randy Johnson gave up singles to Jason Giambi and Jeter in the third, Piazza walked out to talk with the Big Unit.

Second baseman Jeff Kent



Boston Red Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez hits a two-run homer in the first inning of the All-Star Game in Houston on Tuesday.

didn't help Clemens, his Houston teammate, by making a two-out error on Giambi's grounder in the first. Jeter followed with a single and Soriano homered for a 6-0 lead.

It was the biggest outburst in an All-Star Game since Fred Lynn's grand slam highlighted a seven-run inning for the AL in 1983.

Clemens could only stand there and signal for a new ball, an embarrassed expression on his face. He still got a nice ovation from Astros fans when he struck out Mulder with his final pitch of the evening.

Alex Rodriguez, one of eight players from the first-place Yankees on the AL roster, hit an RBI triple in the fourth.

Ortiz, who replaced Ramirez, homered in the sixth. Boston boppers Ramirez and Ortiz became the first teammates to connect for the AL in an All-Star Game since Cleveland's Al Rosen and Larry Doby in 1954.

"We stayed pretty aggressive," AL manager Joe Torre of the Yankees said.

Jeter finished 3-for-3 after being elected to his first All-Star start. At 7-for-10, the Yankees shortstop has the highest average of anyone with at least 10 All-Star at-bats.

Sammy Sosa hit a broken-bat RBI single off Mulder in the first inning. Edgar Renteria hit an RBI double and St. Louis teammate Albert Pujols hit a two-run double off C.C. Sabathia to make it 7-4.

## Major League Baseball scoreboard

### American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	31	.640	—
Boston	48	38	.558	7
Tampa Bay	42	45	.483	13½
Toronto	39	49	.443	17
Baltimore	37	48	.435	17½
Central Division				
Chicago	46	38	.548	—
Minnesota	47	40	.540	½
Cleveland	42	45	.483	5½
Detroit	42	45	.483	5½
Kansas City	31	54	.365	15½
West Division				

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	49	37	.570	—
Oakland	47	39	.547	2
Sanheim	47	40	.540	2½
Seattle	32	54	.372	17
Tuesday's game				

American League 9, National League 4,  
All-Star Game

**Wednesday's games**  
No games scheduled

**Thursday's games**

N.Y. Yankees (Contreras 6-3) at Detroit (Bonderman 6-5)  
 Baltimore (Bedard 3-6) at Tampa Bay (Lirio 3-6)  
 Minnesota (Lowe 3-6) at Kansas City (Greinke 1-6)  
 Boston (Lowe 7-8) at Anaheim (Washburn 4-4)  
 Cleveland (Sabathia 5-4) at Seattle (Pineda 4-4)  
 Chicago White Sox (Garland 7-5) at Oakland (Harden 3-5)

**Friday's games**  
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay  
 N.Y. Yankees at Detroit  
 Toronto at Texas  
 Minnesota at Kansas City  
 Chicago White Sox at Oakland  
 Cleveland at Seattle

Boston at Anaheim

San Francisco at Los Angeles

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Tuesdays game				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	46	41	.529	1
Atlanta	45	42	.517	1 1/2
Florida	45	43	.511	1 3/4
New York	44	43	.506	2
Montreal	31	56	.356	15
Central Division				
St. Louis	54	33	.621	—
Chicago	47	40	.540	7
Cincinnati	47	41	.534	7 1/2
Milwaukee	45	41	.523	8 1/2
Cleveland	44	44	.500	10 1/2
Pittsburgh	39	47	.453	14 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	48	38	.558	—
San Francisco	49	40	.551	2
San Diego	47	41	.534	2 1/2
San Jose	46	41	.524	3 1/2

toronto	30	51	.419	12½
arizona	31	58	.348	18½
<b>Tuesday's game</b>				
American League 9, National League 4,				
il-Star Game				
<b>Wednesday's games</b>				
No games scheduled				
<b>Thursday's games</b>				
Philadelphia (Milton 11-2) at N.Y. Mets (Tr-				
schel 9-6)				
St. Louis (Morris 9-6) at Cincinnati				
Sanchez 0-1)				
Montreal (LHernandez 6-8) at Atlanta				
Wright 6-5)				

Milwaukee (D.Davis 9-6) at Chicago Cubs  
(Prior 2-2)  
San Francisco (J.Williams 8-6) at Colorado  
(Jennings 8-7)  
Los Angeles (Weaver 6-9) at Arizona  
(Johnson 10-7)

**Friday's games**  
 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs  
 Florida at Pittsburgh  
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets  
 St. Louis at Cincinnati  
 Montreal at Atlanta  
 San Diego at Houston  
 San Francisco at Colorado  
 Los Angeles at Arizona

**Tuesday**  
**American 9, National 4**

	abr	b	abr	b
Isuzuki cf	4	11	0	0
Vzquez p	4	11	0	0
Billard 2b	4	11	0	0
Idrncz c	4	12	1	0
Idrncz c	4	12	1	0
Vzquez p	4	11	0	0
Lilly p	4	10	0	0
Mmrrz cf	3	11	0	0
Dortiz 2b	3	12	0	0
Alonso 3b	3	11	0	0
Blackloc 3b	3	10	0	0
JagBl 1b	2	11	0	0
Alonso 3b	2	11	0	0
Matsuai lf	1	10	0	0
Jeter ss	3	13	0	0
Leone cf	3	12	0	0
Asano 2b	3	12	3	0
Shnfield lf	3	12	0	0
Mmrrz 2b	3	10	0	0
Harvey ph	1	0	0	0
Loaiza p	1	0	0	0
Shnfield lf	1	0	0	0

Myong SS	2	0	0	0	Larkin	1	0	0	0
Nathan +P	0	0	0	0	Rhison +P	1	0	0	0
Gabe +P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRdzrg	0	0	0	0	CBeltrn	1	2	1	1
MRlrv +P	0	0	0	0	Helton	1	0	0	0
Totals	41	9	14	9	Totals	36	10	2	2
					600	102	600	102	600
National					100	300	100	300	100
E=Kent (1), DP=National 1, LDB=American									
7, National 7, DP=2-N (Suzuki), Renteria (1)									
1, 2-N (Suzuki), Rodriguez (1), Ramirez (1),									
ez (1), HR=MRamirez (1), D Ortiz (1), ASori-									
ano (1)									
					IP	H	R	ER	BB
American	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mulder W-1.0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loaiza	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salas	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VJvazquez	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lily	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garrison	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rodriguez	2 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
MRivera	1	0	0	0	0	0
National						
Clemens L,0-1	1	5	6	3	0	2
Kolb	1	1	0	0	0	0
RJohnson	1	3	0	0	0	0
Zambrano	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pavano	2	3	2	2	0	1
TGlavine	1	1	0	0	0	0
BSheets	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gagne	1	0	0	0	0	1
HB by Mulder (Rolen). T-2:59. A-41,88						
(4th 95)						

# Adapt of role reversal in golf's hierarchy

## Woods no longer viewed as game's unbeatable force

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

TRON, Scotland — Despite two U.S. Open titles and a wealth of talent, Ernie Els said to show up for major championships and try to convince himself he could win. It was a one-sided argument that he usually lost.

"It was difficult for not only myself but for other players to really believe that you can go out there and play your game and think it's going to be good enough," Els said Tuesday at Royal Troon.

That was at the height of "Tiger Woods' incomparable run through the majors, when he won seven of 11 majors, set scoring records in each Grand Slam event and held all four trophies at the same time.

Els showed up at Royal Troon with high hopes and in a new role — the betting favorite to win the British Open, the first time in a major since the 1997 Masters that the best odds were assigned to someone other than Woods.

And the Big Easy didn't need a betting slip to know that

### Friendly links

Americans have won five of the seven British Opens contested at Royal Troon:

1997 — Justin Leonard, U.S.  
1959 — Mark Calcavecchia, U.S.  
1982 — Tom Watson, U.S.  
1973 — Tom Weiskopf, U.S.  
1965 — Arnold Palmer, U.S.  
1950 — Bobby Locke, S. Africa  
1932 — Arthur Havers, England

"Right now it's different," he said, "I feel that when he plays really well, he's going to shoot 67. But if I play well, I can shoot that score, as well.

And I can keep doing that for three or four days. I think we're on a more level playing field now, and maybe because Tiger Woods has come back to the field a little bit."

Ladbrokes listed Els as the 7-1 favorite Tuesday, with Woods right behind at 8-1.

To get an idea how much has changed in two years, consider that Woods was the 4-1 favorite going into Muirfield — not only to win the British Open, but to win the final two majors for the Grand Slam.

"Tiger will be back to his dominance, if not this week, very soon. I'm sure of that," Thomas Bjorn said. "But I just think everybody else sees themselves being able to play to that level."

Maybe that's what gives this British



Tiger Woods, above, no longer casts a commanding shadow over the golf world. This week's British Open marks the first time since 1997 Masters that he has not been the top betting favorite in a major. His last victory in a major was in the 2002 U.S. Open.

open a truly "open" feel at Royal Troon. Phil Mickelson has a green jacket to go with that very smile, a winner at the Masters for his first major. The only thing that stopped Lefty from the first two legs of the Grand Slam was Retief Goosen, a smooth South African whose second U.S. Open victory might finally make people aware of his greatness.

"Where Tiger was and where he is now, I mean we're in different worlds now," Els said. "A lot of the players feel that we can compete with him now at the highest level. He's still playing great golf. He's still not that far off."

Is he still No. 1?

Maybe not after this week.

Els had a chance to replace him last month in the U.S. Open. Two shots out of the lead and playing in the final group, Els made double bogey on the first hole and crashed to an 80.

He gets another chance at Royal Troon, where a victory coupled with Woods finishing 17th or worse would end Woods' run of 257 consecutive weeks — dating to the 1999 PGA Championship — at No. 1 in the world.

"To be No. 1 in this day and age, with this many great players, would be quite something," Els said. "But for me, to win

this tournament is more important. To win majors is more important for my career."

Still, Els knows there is a long road ahead of him at Royal Troon, a links known for its tough final nine holes, the tiny "Postage Stamp" green on the 123-yard eighth hole and putting surfaces as pure as any in the British Open.

Mickelson has never finished in the top 10 in a British Open, his weak link in the majors. But he has never prepared so well for the Open, playing Royal Troon last Wednesday, on Friday after he missed the cut at Loch Lomond and Monday morning in what probably was his final tuneup.

Along the way, he has taken copious notes of where the ball is likely to wind up after traveling along the humps and bumps of the firm linksland.

"What I've tried to do this week ... is to understand where balls will tend to end up and try to be effective from there to the hole," Mickelson said. "I feel much more confident than I have in the past because I have come in and prepared properly."

He also was prepared for a question about his chief rival, and whether Woods has lost an aura of invincibility.

"Well, that's a tough one to answer," Mickelson said, before deciding to go no

further.

Woods doesn't have fond memories of Royal Troon, even though he shares the course record with a 64 in the third round during the 1997 British Open that helped him to a tie for 24th.

He came undone with a triple bogey on the 11th hole in the first round, a quadruple bogey on the 10th hole in the second round, and a triple bogey on the Postage Stamp on the final day.

All it takes is a couple of bad swings to get in trouble at Troon. And that's what has kept Woods winless in the past eight majors, with only one PGA Tour victory more than halfway through this season.

Woods didn't say his swing was "close" because no one asked him — they have heard the same answer the past three months. But he has looked relaxed all week, not outwardly bothered by going two years without a major, or by the posse of players closing in on his No. 1 ranking.

"I've always played my best when I've gone out and stayed focused on what I have to do and not worry about anything else," Woods said.

When he played his best, he almost always won.

Now, he might understand how Els and everyone else used to feel at majors.

Will it be enough?

### British Open odds



Mickelson Els

Opening odds for the 133rd British Open, according to European betting parlor Ladbrokes:

Ernie Els	7-1
Tiger Woods	8-1
Phil Mickelson	14-1
Retief Goosen	16-1
Sergio Garcia	16-1
Vijay Singh	16-1
David Love III	25-1
Pedrag Harrington	25-1
Stephen Ames	40-1
Adam Scott	33-1
Darren Clarke	33-1
Mark Calcavecchia	40-1
Robert Allenby	40-1

Source: Ladbrokes.com

# For the Americans, this Open is a qualified disaster

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

TRON, Scotland — It's easy to make fun of the pampered Americans.

### Commentary

They get fancy courtesy cars — a Mercedes one week, a Cadillac the next — in a Buick at worst — and play for \$5 million purses on courses that are manicured to perfection. But ask them to fly overseas, whether it's a World Golf Championship or the oldest championship in golf, and it becomes an imposition.

Stuart Appleby of Australia summed up it best a few years ago when a dozen Americans declined to take a chartered plane to

Valderrama to play in a tournament that guaranteed \$25,000 for last place.

"They're like a bag of prawns on a hot Sunday," he said. "They don't travel well."

The outrage at Royal Troon is not just the number of no-shows — Fred Funk, of all people, topping the list — but how the Royal & Ancient Golf Club made it easier than ever for Americans to qualify for the British Open and still turned their nose up at the benevolence.

For the first time, the R&A expanded its 36-hole qualifying from four links courses near the Open to include four courses around the world, giving tour players a chance to qualify without having to travel to Britain.

And how did they show their

gratitude?

Fifty-two PGA Tour players didn't bother to show up for the U.S. qualifier at Congressional two weeks ago. Worse yet, six players didn't even call to say they weren't coming. None seemed the least bit bothered by turning down a chance to play in the British Open.

"Well, we are close to Iraq," Colin Montgomerie said, not missing a chance to tweak Americans. The real job came from Marcus Fraser, a European tour player from Australia who lost his chance to qualify in Malaysia because of a shoulder injury that kept him from traveling. He petitioned the R&A to play in the European qualifier when he was healthy, and was turned down.

So, Marcus, did you hear about

the 52 Americans who got injured at Congressional?

"Sudden injury," Fraser mused.

"Heart muscle, wasn't it?"

No, just poor etiquette, brought on by a case of brain cramps.

Even some players eligible for the British Open are not here.

Kirk Triplett said it was his favorite tournament to watch on TV. Funk gave no reason for withdrawing, although one can only suspect that after his winning about links golf last year, he figures it will be easier to collect Ryder Cup points at the minor-league B.C. Open this week.

"This is the greatest tournament in the world," Mark Calcavecchia said. "If you're exempt, you should take a row boat if you have to."

Funk said he would row a boat

to South Africa for a chance to play in the Presidents Cup, but he won't take an eight-hour flight to Scotland for the British Open.

That's why the joke is on the R&A.

It has gotten away from its roots — the "Open" championship of golf — by catering to the pros. It wanted a stronger field, but that is not the identity of the British Open. Whether it's Tiger Woods or Ben Curtis, Ernie Els or Paul Lawrie, the winner is introduced as the champion golfer of the world.

Those who aspire to such glory will earn their way to the British Open through exceptional golf or they will not think twice about traveling to Britain for 36 holes of qualifying.

It was changed to get a stronger field, yet only 71 of the top 100 in the world are at Royal Troon.



# Shaq-to-Heat trade is finally a done deal

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

MIAMI — It's official: The Shaquille O'Neal era in Los Angeles is over, and his new team is the Miami Heat.

The Lakers and Heat finalized a trade Wednesday, sending O'Neal to Miami. Los Angeles gets Caron Butler, Lamar Odom,

Brian Grant and a first-round draft pick.

The deal had been on the verge of completion since Saturday, when O'Neal met in Orlando with Heat President Pat Riley and agreed to the trade. NBA attorneys approved it on the same day the league's two-week moratorium on player movement ended.

Acquiring O'Neal is literally a

big deal for the Heat, who will count on the 7-foot-1, 340-pound center to transform them into a championship contender.

O'Neal, 32, is coming off a season in which he averaged a career-low 21.5 points, and he has missed 15 games each of the past three seasons with foot and leg injuries. But he's an 11-time All-Star with career averages of

27.1 points, 12.1 rebounds and 2.6 blocks, and he changes the balance of power in the Eastern Conference, where there's a dearth of dominating centers.

The trade marks a return to Florida for O'Neal, who began his NBA career in 1992 with Orlando and still has a home there. He led the Magic to the Finals in 1995, signed with the Lakers as a free

agent in 1996 and helped them win three NBA titles.

Days after the Lakers lost this year's championship series to Detroit, O'Neal demanded to be traded, weary of feuding with Kobe Bryant and feeling disrespected by owner Jerry Buss. He's under contract for \$27.7 million this coming season and \$30.6 million in 2005-06.

# Clippers clear salary caproom for Kobe

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

When the NBA announced the new salary cap figure for the upcoming season, the Los Angeles Clippers found themselves \$11.65 million below it.

Needing another couple million to offer Kobe Bryant a maximum-salary contract, the Clippers found a way to do so.

The Clippers traded Melvin Ely and Eddie House to the expansion Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday for second-round draft picks in 2005 and 2006, clearing \$2.5 million in salary-cap space.

In announcing the trade, Clippers Vice President Elgin Baylor did not mention Bryant specifically, but hinted that the team was looking at "potential opportunities." "We began discussions on this transaction in early July, with the goal of creating

salary cap flexibility which would allow us to take advantage of any potential opportunities," he said.

Bryant is eligible to receive a starting salary of almost \$14.2 million, 100 percent of his 2003-04 salary of \$13.5 million.

Spokesmen for the Lakers and Clippers said they had no news to report on what Bryant might do. And with Bryant continuing to maintain a public silence — his agent, Rob Pelinka, said "I'm not commenting to the media at this time" — there was no telling when the 25-year-old might decide where he'll play next season.

A few restricted free agents were expected to sign offer sheets in the hours after the moratorium expired, while a handful of unrestricted free agents — most notably Steve Nash going from Dallas to Phoenix — would finally be allowed to sign the deals they agreed to during the first two weeks of this month.

Among the top free agents whose plans

were not yet known were Rashheed Wallace of the NBA champion Detroit Pistons, Erick Dampier of Golden State, Karl Malone of the Lakers, Vladi Divac of Sacramento, Derek Fisher of the Lakers, Darius Miles of Portland and Kenyon Martin of New Jersey.

Martin was weighing an offer sheet with Atlanta or Denver after sign-and-trade discussions between the Nuggets and Nets broke down.

The Nuggets were considering giving Martin a front-loaded deal that might give pause to incoming Nets owner Bruce Ratner.

Malone, puzzled by the breakup of the Lakers, was being courted by the Spurs.

"Without a doubt, I'm serious [about the Spurs]," Malone told the San Antonio Express-News. "I've had serious dialogue with them, and more than once. I've talked to coach [Gregg] Popovich two or three times and [general manager] R.C. [Bun-

ford] one or two times. They call about every other day. I've had great dialogue with them."

Malone, however, said he will not make a decision about next season until he knows whether he can perform at 100 percent of his capability. He recently underwent surgery on his left knee, which he sprained twice last season.

Cleveland forward Carlos Boozer signed an offer sheet with the Utah Jazz Wednesday. Boozer and the Jazz agreed to the six-year, \$68 million offer sheet last week.

The Cavaliers believed they had an understanding with Boozer when they did not pick up the third year option on his contract. Detroit center Mehmet Okur also signed a six-year, \$50 million offer sheet with the Jazz on Wednesday.

Both the Cavs and the Pistons have 15 days to match Utah's offer, but neither is expected to because they don't have enough money under the salary cap.

# Frenchman Virenque wins 10th stage on Bastille Day

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

SAINT-FLOUR, France — Frenchman Richard Virenque won the first mountain stage of the Tour de France on Wednesday in a leg that included the first jousting between five-time champion Lance Armstrong and rival Jan Ullrich.

Virenque won on Bastille Day with a strong solo ride, moving a step closer to his goal for this tour: to become the first seven-time winner of the pink spotted jersey as best climber.

Virenque won the 47-mile stage, the longest of the Tour, in 6 hours, 24 seconds. It was his seventh victory in a long career marked by outstanding performances and the lows of a doping scandal in 1998. His last stage win was in 2003, to Morzine in the Alps — also after a solo effort ahead of the chasing pack.

Armstrong was sixth in the stage, sprinting at the finish to come in just behind French champion and overall leader Thomas Voeckler.

Armstrong, Voeckler and Ullrich were 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind Virenque. The 32-year-old Texan is sixth overall, 9 minutes, 35 seconds behind Voeckler and 55 seconds ahead of Ullrich.

In a glimpse of their expected battles to come in the harder Pyrenees and Alps, Armstrong and Ullrich led the main pack up the hardest of nine climbs, a 3½-mile ascent of Le Puy Mary, in the Massif Central region of central France.

The climb, the hardest so far, grew steeper as it went up and was where Virenque first surged into the lead.

Johan Bruyneel, sports manager for Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team, said it was too early in the three-week race to tell whether the five-time champ is stronger than his challengers.

Armstrong "looked good and sounded good on the radio," Bruyneel said. "It was a hard climb ... but still very far from the finish of the race, so we can't really know now who is good and bad."

Cheered by hundreds of thousands of fans celebrating the 14th day, Virenque became the 14th Frenchman since World War II to win a French national holiday and the first since Laurent Jalabert in 2001.

A teary Virenque dedicated his victory to a friend who died two days earlier as his grandfather who died in June. He said his memory drove him on through the pain of riding alone at the end.

"It's fabulous. I was at the end

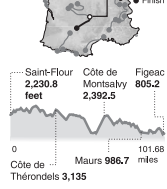
91st TOUR DE FRANCE

## Downhill drop

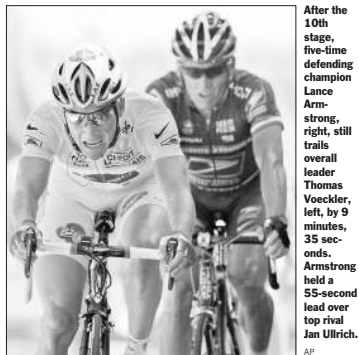
Starting where the last stage finished, this trip from Saint-Flour to Figeac drops 2,720 feet from its highest point to the finish.

## Stage 11

Thursday, July 15



Source: Tour de France



After the 10th stage, five-time defending champion Lance Armstrong, right, still trails overall leader Thomas Voeckler, left, by 9 minutes, 35 seconds. Armstrong held a 55-second lead over top rival Jan Ullrich.

Accompanied much of the way by Axel Merckx, the son of five-time Tour champion Eddy Merckx, the two built a lead of more than 10 minutes. But Virenque moved ahead of the Belgian rider on the steepest climb.

Virenque rode alone over the last 40 miles to the finish in Saint-Flour, thrusting his arms into the air as he crossed the line and pointing to the sky.

Virenque, 34, is approaching the end of a career that could see him credited as being the Tour's best-ever climber — if he again wins the spotted jersey at the finish in Paris on July 25. He cur-

rently is tied with Spanish rider Federico Bahamontes and Belgian Lucien Van Impe with six mountain titles.

Virenque was a member of the Festina team that was ejected from the 1998 Tour after customs officers found a large stash of banned drugs in a team car.

In a trial that followed, Virenque caused a furor with testimony on systematic drug abuse within his team and cycling.

His admission of doping led to a seven-month ban that kept him out of the 2001 Tour. At the time, he said he felt his career was over.

See results on Page 40.

# Kahne's crew chief fined for fight with Stewart's crew

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — NASCAR fined Kasey Kahne's crew chief \$10,000 and put him on probation Tuesday for his role in a fight in Tony Stewart's pit at Chicagoland Speedway.

Tommy Baldwin was fined \$5,000 for violating a rule prohibiting fights in another team's pit area and \$5,000 for not controlling crew members. He also was placed on probation until Dec. 31.

The sanctioning body also said it was fining four crew chiefs for equipment violations earlier this month at Daytona.

"For not doing anything, it's a big, bad hit for the team," said Baldwin, at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for testing before next month's Brickyard 400.

The fight in Stewart's pit happened on the driver spun out to race line Kahne on a restart Sunday in Tropicana 400. Kahne

crashed into the wall and Stewart went on to win.

Baldwin and his crew went to Stewart's pit, where a heated discussion turned into a shoving match, with crew members falling over times until NASCAR officials intervened. Ray Evernham, Kahne's car owner, later said that if Stewart wasn't suspended he would give the driver a good beating.

"NASCAR has made its decision, now it's time to move on," Evernham said in a statement. "I understand why Tommy and the team reacted the way they did in the heat of competition."

Baldwin got the message from NASCAR.

"You can't voice your opinion, and you can't leave the pit box," he said. "I understand they're trying to make an example."

Baldwin said he had not discussed the fine with Evernham.

Evernham said in the state-

ment, "NASCAR has rules. I agree with rules. Evernham Motorsports also has rules. NASCAR has made its decision and imposed its penalties. Now, I will impose the appropriate penalties for Evernham Motorsports."

He didn't elaborate but said the team must concentrate on future races.

Marc Reno was fined \$25,000, and three other crews were penalized for equipment violations before the NASCAR Nextel Cup race July 3 at Daytona International Speedway.

Reno, crew chief for Bobby Hamilton Jr., and Jimmy Elledge, crew chief for Casey Mears, were fined \$20,000 apiece for misaligned carburetor throttle bodies discovered during pre-race inspection.

Reno was fined an additional \$5,000 because a rear deck lid did not fit the required template during inspection before practice for the Pepsi 400.



Team owner Ray Evernham, right, talks to Kasey Kahne after an accident during the NASCAR Tropicana 400 that sparked a fight in the pits.

# Officials tell Congress pro sports need uniform drug standards

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Insufficient drug testing in some of America's premier pro sports leagues has led to a world perception that U.S. athletes routinely use illegal performance-enhancing substances, Congress was told Tuesday.

Terry Madden, head of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, an independent organization that monitors America's Olympic athletes, said some countries balk at signing anti-doping codes because they believe professional athletes in the United States are among the worst violators.

"The perception out there is that we're not a clean country," Madden said.

The National Football League has solid testing, he said, but baseball, basketball and hockey "need to raise their programs."

Madden and Bill Martin, former head of the U.S. Olympic Committee, told the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control that uniform standards for testing amateur and pro athletes are needed.

Such standards would provide "consistent messages to athletes and would greatly simplify enforcement," said Martin, athletic director of the University of Michigan. On the Olympics, he said, have a more exhaustive list of banned substances than the NCAA.

Martin and Madden testified for a Senate bill that would ban over-the-counter sale of steroid precursors, which act like steroids in the human body.

The House voted 408-3 last month for a similar bill.

## Miami suspends CB Rolle

MIAMI — Miami Hurricanes cornerback Antrel Rolle was sus-

## Sports briefs

pended indefinitely Tuesday by coach Larry Coker after being charged with violating university policy on an officer's office.

According to a police complaint, Rolle was involved in a fight in a street near campus early Sunday morning and resisted arrest, cursing and swinging his arms in an attempt to free himself and forcing officers to call for backup.

"We take these accusations very seriously," Coker said in a statement announcing that Rolle had been suspended.

Rolle was released on bond and is scheduled for a court appearance Aug. 2.

He was expected to be one of the Hurricanes' top players after deciding in January to return for his senior season.

The Hurricanes open the season Sept. 6 against Florida State.

## Ex-NFL star CB Sanders disputes debt

DALLAS — Former All-Pro cornerback Deion Sanders reportedly owes back child support and faces legal action for mismanaging a trust fund.

The ex-player and sports commentator disputes the claims in a petition of breach of trust and a motion for enforcement of a child support order filed July 3 in Collin County district court on behalf of his ex-wife, Carolyn Sanders.

Sanders' former wife alleges that the athlete has not paid the court-ordered monthly payment of \$1,500 for their two young children since February. She also

wants to withdraw her \$1 million contribution to a \$2 million trust fund for the children because he is not fulfilling his legal obligation to provide annual financial accounting to Chambers Sanders, according to her attorney, Deborah Pritchett said.

"There is no truth to anything she's alleging," Sanders told The Dallas Morning News on Tuesday night, adding that he has copies of canceled checks for his child support payments through June. "I established the trust fund for my kids, and I'm the custodian of the trust fund. And I will protect my kids' money from their mother."

## Bucs release DT Russell

TAMPA, Fla. — Defensive tackle Darrell Russell was released by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Tuesday, four months after the troubled former Pro Bowler signed with the team.

The Bucs had hoped to give Russell a chance to replicate the success he had before off-field problems derailed his career. He played at Oakland under Bucs coach Jon Gruden and defensive line coach Rod Marinelli.

Russell, the second overall pick in the 1997 draft, spent part of last season with the Washington Redskins after he was reinstated by the NFL following a 1½-year suspension for a second violation of the league's substance abuse policy.

The 6-foot-5, 325-pound tackle had 28½ sacks in five seasons with the Raiders and was selected to play in the Pro Bowl in 1998 and 1999. He failed a drug test and sat out the first four games of the 2001 season, then was suspended by the NFL for a second violation of the league's substance abuse policy.

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# Phelps yields spotlight to Crocker, Hall

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Michael Phelps sure doesn't look so unbeatable now.

For the second straight day, Phelps touched the wall second at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials — beaten Tuesday by another world-record performance.

Ian Crocker eclipsed his own mark in the 100-meter butterfly to edge Phelps, whose quest to break Mark Spitz's record of seven Olympic gold medals appears more daunting than ever after 17 races over the past week.

"I've never been under that kind of stress in a meet before," Phelps said. "I'm very relieved it's over."

If he thinks this was bad, just wait until the Olympics. Ian Thorpe and the rest of the world's top swimmers will be waiting, eager to deny Phelps his place in history.

Speaking of Athens, Gary Hall Jr. will be on hand to defend his title as the world's fastest Olympic swimmer after beating rival Jason Lezak in the 50 freestyle. But Brooke Bennett is done, failing to earn a chance to win their third straight gold in the 800 free.

Crocker led at the turn and withstood a challenge coming down the stretch, touching the wall in 50.76 seconds — the sixth world record of the trials. Phelps finished in 51.15, the fourth-fastest time in history but not fast enough.

"He definitely took me out in the first 50," Phelps said. "I was too far behind and couldn't play catch."

Aaron Peirsol beat Phelps in the 200 backstroke final Monday — also setting a world record. Crocker's time beat the mark of 50.98 he set during last year's world championships in Barcelona.

Hall will be trying to win his second straight gold in the 50



Ian Crocker celebrates his world record in the 100-meter butterfly with Michael Phelps in the background at the U.S. Olympic trials. Crocker won with a time of 50.76 and Phelps took second with a time of 51.15.

free, having tied Anthony Ervin at Sydney four years ago. Hall equaled the sixth-fastest time in history at 21.91, while Lezak touched second in 22.05.

Their rivalry was spurred on by trash-talking and other antics by Hall, Lezak and their representatives. But the two seemed to get along just fine after the 50, shaking hands and exchanging smiles.

"There's nothing between us in the first place," said Lezak, who beat Hall in the 100 free. "We're both here to do a job. I did the job I was looking to do and I'm sure he's happy with what he did."

Ever the showman, Hall climbed atop a starting block and bowed to the cheering crowd. Then, still dripping wet and wearing nothing but his suit, he walked into the stands to hug his wife. Later, he strolled around the deck wearing a stars-and-stripes boxing robe, in keeping with his belief that the 50 is like a heavy-weight fight.

"I just wanted to get to the other end of the pool," Hall said. "Last one there is a rotten egg."

Hall has eight sprinting and relay medals from the past two



Gary Hall poses before winning the 50-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic swim trials.

Olympics. He'll have a chance to add to that haul in Athens, becoming part of the first father-son duo to both qualify for three Olympics.

Bennett, who succeeded Janet Evans as the queen of American distance swimming, finished third behind Diana Munz and Kalyan Keller in the 800 free to miss a spot on the Olympic team.

Bennett won the 800 at Atlanta and pulled off a 400-800 double at Sydney four years ago. But she hasn't been the same swimmer since undergoing surgery on both shoulders in 2001, struggling just to get out of the preliminaries.

"I gave it a good fight," Bennett said.

Munz, the 400 silver medalist in Sydney, won a great sprint to the wall in 8:26.06, barely edging Keller (8:26.33). Bennett was third at 8:29.39 — her best time since surgery but nearly 10 seconds slower than the winning time in Sydney.

While Phelps became the first U.S. swimmer to qualify in six individual events at the Olympics,

the past two days cast serious doubts on his quest to break Spitz's record, set in the 1972 Munich Games.

Phelps and his coach, Bob Bowman, plan to decide in the next day or two whether to swim all six individual races in Athens, or go with a lighter schedule that might keep him stronger but give him fewer chances to beat Spitz.

Phelps has qualified for at least one relay and also wants to swim the other two, giving him as many as nine races at the Olympics.

Crocker established his supremacy in the 100 butterfly with an upset of Phelps at the 2003 world championships. Both swimmers eclipsed Phelps' previous world record on that night — a race that prompted Phelps to put up a picture of Crocker in his bedroom as extra motivation.

It didn't help at the trials, where Phelps swam the last of his 17 races during a grueling, week-long stretch.

"Michael is a phenomenal swimmer and he's trying to do something really special," Crocker said. "It is attracting attention to this sport we haven't had in a long time and it's a healthy thing."

Then again, he's hardly the only swimmer at these trials worth noticing.

Brendan Hansen set two world records in the breaststroke while Peirsol, Crocker and Amanda Beard have as many as Phelps.

"Brendan Hansen, Aaron Peirsol and myself deserve similar attention," Crocker said.

The 21-year-old Maine native laid down a challenge to Phelps, vowing to take the world record even later in Athens.

"I promise," Crocker said.

Margaret Hoeltzer won the 200 backstroke in 2:11.88, benefiting from the absence of American record-holder Natalie Coughlin. She skipped the event to focus on the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

## Usually quiet Johnson compares USADA to Gestapo

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Allen Johnson usually is a quiet champion.

His victories in the 110-meter hurdles have become almost routine, and he has evolved into one of the senior leaders of U.S. track and field.

So his pointed criticism of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency seemed out of character this week at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

"It's almost like USADA is the Gestapo, some Nazi organization that's just out to ban as many athletes as they possibly can," Johnson said. "The doping system that the athletes are under right now, it needs to be fixed."

He feels the suspicion that has fallen on Marion Jones is not right.

"It's not fair to drag somebody through the mud because of who they've fallen in love with," Johnson said, referring to Jones' boyfriend, Tim Montgomery. Jones took last year off with the couple's son.

USADA wants Montgomery and three other track athletes banned from the sport

for life. None of the four has tested positive, but USADA has accused them of doping offenses based on evidence gathered in the criminal probe of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative. USADA also has lowered the standard of conviction from "beyond a reasonable doubt" to a "comfortable assurance" by all those on the arbitration panel. The lower standards, however, may not be used in the four pending cases.

Jones, who already has failed to make the team in the 100 meters and competes in the long jump final Thursday night, has not been accused of wrongdoing by USADA. She remains under investigation, despite her vehement denials of ever using banned substances.

"I think USADA should be on the side of the athletes, do more as far as educating the athletes what the rules are, how the rules work, how the whole process works," Johnson said. "I was always under the impression that USADA was an ally of mine. Looking at the way things are going now, USADA is in the business of promoting themselves, and the athletes and everybody else is on the other side."

Reminded that USADA was created to

be an independent body, Johnson said, "You can be independent, but at the same time you can still help the athletes out as far as educating us on how everything works."

Nobody is accusing Johnson of anything beyond running very fast for a long time. He is a four-time world champion and the 1996 Olympic gold medalist. Eight years after he set the American record of 12.92 — one-hundredths of a second off the world mark — Johnson has the world leading time of 13.05. In fact, he owns five of the top seven times in the event this year.

The other two belong to Chinese sensation Liu Xiang, who turns 21 on Thursday. Johnson edged Liu in a photo finish July 2 in Rome.

"I had a bad start, but I recovered in the fifth hurdle. In Athens, everything is possible, even beating Allen Johnson," Liu said at the time.

Johnson, who also has a gold medal from the 1997 1,600-meter relay, is impressed by the young Chinese hurdler.

"I don't see too many newbies in his race technically," Johnson said. "So he's not going to make a mistake. He's almost perfect. That's why he's so difficult to beat."

"I think I'm a little bit quicker. I think I can get out of the blocks a little quicker than he can, but his finish is definitely better than mine."

Before he can worry about Liu, Johnson must finish in the top three in the trials, where his chief rivals are Larry Wade and Terrence Trammell. Wade beat Johnson last month in the Prefontaine Classic.

Preliminaries in the 110 hurdles are Saturday, with the finals on Sunday.

Four years ago, Johnson was hampered by injuries and knocked down all 10 hurdles in the Olympic final. He has been thinking about Athens ever since, returning to win the world championships in 2001 and 2003.

But even though he will be 37 when the Beijing Games come around, Johnson has no use for those who might call this his Olympic farewell.

"This will not be my last hurrah. This will not be my last Olympics," he said. "It's probably my second to last hurrah. I'm still running extremely well. There's still not anybody in the world who can run faster than me. Why quit?"

## SPORTS

## Rocket lit up at All-Star bash



Texas Rangers' Alfonso Soriano, center, is congratulated by former N.Y. Yankees teammate Derek Jeter, left, after Soriano's three-run homer in the first inning of Tuesday's All-Star Game against Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens. In foreground is Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki. Soriano was the game's MVP.



Tough U.S. trials run shows  
Phelps his quest to surpass  
Spitz won't be easy, Page 47

## AL blasts Astros ace en route to 9-4 victory

BY BEN WALKER  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens was all set for a homecoming bash.

Instead, it turned into an All-Star bust. Left with a pained look on his face after MVP Alfonso Soriano and Manny Ramirez homered, Clemens was long gone by the time the American League finished off its 9-4 victory over the National League on Tuesday night.

"I put our guys in a hole," Clemens said.

And how.

With a sellout crowd at Minute Maid Park cheering for him before the first pitch, and an in-game tribute already scheduled, Clemens gave up a record six runs in the first inning.

The Houston Astros ace certainly couldn't blame his catcher.

Foisting with Mike Piazza for four years, Clemens was forced to work with his nemesis this time. Piazza put down a series of signals and let the six-time Cy Young winner pitch.

"Basically, I just try to roll through it. He stops me at what he wants to throw," Piazza said.

It didn't work too well for Clemens. Because after Muhammad Ali playfully jabbed at Derek Jeter during first-ball festivities,

the slugging really started. David Ortiz also homered and Jeter got three more hits as the Americans romped to their seventh straight win, not including the infamous tie in 2002. They closed their overall deficit to 40-33-2 and clinched home-field advantage in the World Series for the third year in a row.

Ichiro Suzuki led off the game with a double. Ivan Rodriguez followed with a triple and the rout was on. The Americans reduced the 41-year-old Rocket to a batting practice pitcher, becoming the first team in All-Star history to hit for the cycle in an inning.

Soriano's second All-Star homer was a three-run shot off Clemens, his former teammate. "I feel a little sorry because he's been nice to me the Texas second baseman said."

Much of the pregame buildup centered on the checkered past between Clemens and Piazza. Clemens beamed the New York Mets catcher in the 2000 regular season at Yankee Stadium, then threw the jagged barrel of a broken bat toward him in the World Series.

Even prior to the first pitch, it was clear their feud was still simmering.

SEE ALL-STAR ON PAGE 43

Frenchman  
a stage winner  
on Bastille Day;  
Armstrong  
holds his  
ground as Tour  
moves into  
mountains

Page 45



British Open  
odds makers  
favor Els;  
Woods an  
underdog in  
a major for  
first time in  
seven years

Page 44



Clippers up ante for Kobe;  
Lakers deal Shaq to Heat

Page 45

Poor first half costs Astros manager his job Page 42

